

Jordan Times

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Israel to return \$51m to U.S.

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel has pledged to hand back \$51 million in U.S. economic aid which Washington has recalled in attempts to balance its budget, an American embassy official said Wednesday. A senior official had said that if Israel did not return the money other countries, yet to receive their 1986 American aid quota, would have had their aid slashed. Under a new law designed to balance the U.S. budget in five years, all non-defence expenditure is being cut by 4.3 per cent. Because Israel had already received its entire 1986 non-military aid, it was asked to return a portion. Israel was to have got about \$3.75 billion in 1986, about one third of all American foreign aid, the embassy official said. The \$51 million is part of \$1.2 billion in non-military aid, he said. Israel Radio said \$77 million will also be cut from the \$1.8 billion in 1986 military aid Israel is to receive, but a \$750 million package of non-military aid approved last year will be unaffected.

Kubi Genscher discuss cooperation

LONDON (AP) — The Secretary-General of the Arab League, Kubi Genscher, discussed anti-terrorist cooperation with West German Foreign Minister Hans Dietrich Genscher on Wednesday. The two officials met in Bonn, where Kubi Genscher is on a visit. He also explained the Arab League's stance on the U.S. economic embargo against Libya. The Foreign Minister said, "Diplomatic sources in Bonn said several Arab governments in the past few weeks had expressed interest in co-operation with Western European nations on improving security against terrorism. Contacts ensued from the Dec. 27 assaults on airport check-in counters in Rome and Vienna. The sources, who spoke on condition they not be identified, said among the anti-terrorist measures under study were tougher controls on movement of people and the processing of passports and merchandise at airports."

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Australian deputy visits Petra

AMMAN (J.T.) — Mr. Alan Briffiths, an Australian parliamentarian currently visiting Amman, on Wednesday visited Petra and the southern parts of the Kingdom. Mr. Briffiths was received on Tuesday by Upper House of Parliament Deputy Speaker Ismail Hujairi who briefed him on Jordan's constant efforts to arrive at a negotiated settlement to the Middle East conflict.

Qadhafi receives Syrian message

BEIRUT (R) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has received a letter from Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and been briefed on developments in Lebanon, the official Libyan news agency (JANA) said Wednesday. JANA received in Beirut, said the letter was conveyed Tuesday night by Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Shara'a who arrived in Tripoli with a delegation of pro-Syrian Lebanese leftist parties. It said the letter dealt with Arab development and issues of common interest. The delegation briefed Col. Qadhafi on Lebanon and expressed solidarity with Libya "in its confrontation of American threats and economic measures," it added.

Israel to ask Egypt for report on Sinai killings

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel will ask Egypt whether it intends to submit a full report on the killing of seven Israelis in the Sinai Peninsula last year, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Wednesday. The spokesman said Israel also was waiting for Egypt's official response to the Jan. 15 cabinet decision conditionally approving international arbitration over the disputed Sinai border point of Taba. Other Israeli officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Israel may rescind its agreement to arbitrate the Taba dispute unless it is satisfied with Egypt's report on the Oct. 5 shooting.

Khamenei ends visit to Zimbabwe

HARARE (R) — Iranian President Ali Khamenei left Harare for Tehran on Wednesday after a controversial three-day visit marked by his refusal to shake hands with women ministers or to attend a banquet in his honour. Neither of the two women members of Prime Minister Robert Mugabe's cabinet, Women's Affairs Minister Patsy Ropa-Nhongo and Natural Resources and Tourism Minister Victoria Chitengo, was among the airport farewell party.

Carter begins African tour

KHARTOUM (AP) — Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter began on Wednesday a tour of four arid African countries in which he will propose ways of avoiding future droughts. Mr. Carter is representing a private group called "the Green Revolution" on his tour, which also will take him to Tanzania, Zambia and Ghana.

Aden tug-of-war threatens to spark all-out tribal war

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Rebel forces were on Wednesday battling to root out pockets of troops loyal to South Yemeni President Ali Nasser Mohammad in Aden, amid fears an armed power struggle now in its 10th day could turn into all-out tribal war.

Diplomatic sources in the region, quoted by Reuters, said the conflict had already cost 10,000 lives and caused damage running into billions of dollars. Fighting with tanks and artillery raged around the airport and Interior Ministry at Khormaksar, and a big explosion was reported at an ammunition depot there, Reuters said. But the rebels appeared to have tightened their grip on the rest of the capital, it quoted sources as saying. Four of the six provinces were behind the rebels, with Mr. Mohammad entrenched in his only remaining stronghold — his home region of Abyan, 160 kilometres east of Aden — virtually ringed by hostile tribesmen, they said. Tribal warfare, based on personal loyalties rather than ideology, has periodically wracked both Yemen, and there was concern that confusion over who now rules the nation of 2.2 million could spark all-out war, the diplomats told Reuters.

North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, who has called for a ceasefire, is concerned that tribal fighting in the south could arouse North Yemeni tribes hostile to him, they said. At least 1,200 foreigners remained trapped in Aden, many of them threatened by food and water shortages, diplomats in Djibouti said. Some 4,500 foreign nationals have been evacuated to the East African port from Aden, but the flare-up in the fighting has prevented a resumption of a rescue mission by Soviet, French and British vessels now waiting off South Yemen.

Tension runs high in Beirut as blast victims are buried

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Both east and west Beirut remained tense on Wednesday as east Beirut residents buried victims of a big car explosion that killed 30 people and wounded over 100. Reports indicated that Syria had massed armour about President Amin Gemayel's mountain village in the latest development after Mr. Gemayel toppled a rightist militia leader who signed a Syrian-sponsored peace plan to end Lebanon's 10-year-old civil war.

Tuesday's 250-kg bomb turned a busy east Beirut shopping street into an inferno of blazing cars and buildings. Beirut press reports said 30 people were killed and 132 hurt. Dazed relatives gathered to bury their dead as civilians picked through devastated shops and apartments. In west Beirut, army troops fired anti-tank grenades in the air to mourn a soldier killed by the blast.

The attack raised tension in Christian areas already shaken by the violent overthrow of Syria's key Christian ally in Lebanon, Elie Hobeika, which wrecked the pact he signed with two other leaders in a bid to end the civil war. Witnesses quoted by both the AP and Reuters said Syria has massed tanks and 120-mm artillery near Mr. Gemayel's Bikfaya village, where loyalist Lebanese army units confront pro-Syrian militia forces.

There were no reports that the Syrians had taken part in fighting but the soured political climate sent the Lebanese pound plunging to a record low closing price of 20.75/21.25 to the dollar, well below Tuesday's 19.70/30 finish (See page 7).

Police said three of Gemayel's loyalists were killed and seven wounded in fighting during the night with pro-Syrian militias in the central mountains. Both sides used artillery in the clashes that splattered on the eastern flank of the Christian heartland above Bikfaya, 10 kilometres northeast of Beirut. Casualties among the pro-Syrian militias were not known. Syrian army units were reported to be deploying in mountainous position overlooking Bikfaya to back the militias against units of the Lebanese army and Mr. Gemayel's right-wing Falangist militia.

Police said Tuesday's car bomb in the Fum Al Shitbak district of east Beirut was packed with an estimated 250 kilograms of high explosives, gasoline and oxygen

loyal to President Mohammad were in control of downtown Aden locations, apparently bracing to engage the rebels. Scattered fighting with tanks and artillery shells meanwhile raked the seafloor suburbs, these refugees said.

The United Arab newspaper Al Khaleej reported that rebel forces and tribal warriors were "supreme" in the governorates of Lahaj, Hadramawt, Dhahi and Al Mehra.

Citing unidentified sources in Aden and the North Yemeni capital of Sana'a, the paper said that army forces and tribes loyal to President Mohammad were "firmly entrenched" in the governorates of Abyan and Shebweh.

The rebel radio, monitored in Bahrain said that former President Abdul-Fattah Ismail was leading the bloody upsurge against Mr. Mohammad.

Mr. Ismail, a Marxist doctrinaire, was reported by the government radio to have been executed along with other rebel leaders Jan. 13, when they allegedly tried to pull off a coup and assassinate Mr. Mohammad.

The rebel radio insisted that "comrade Abdul Fattah Ismail is alive." Al Khaleej claimed that Mr. Ismail "suffered minor injuries, but his whereabouts remain unknown."

Refugees reaching Djibouti from Aden told the AP militiamen

hottles that turned it into a powerful firebomb.

The force of the blast hurled parked cars into apartment buildings.

The bomb exploded 30 metres from a Falange office, but authorities would not say whether that was the target. The only damage at the four-storey party office was shattered windows.

No-one has claimed responsibility for the car bombing. But the rightist media pointed the finger at Syria and its Lebanese allies, charging that it was retaliation for Mr. Gemayel's efforts to scuttle the Syrian-brokered peace pact.

Syrian allies have blamed Mr. Gemayel for engineering Mr. Hobeika's downfall to sabotage the agreement, which would have reduced the powers of the Christian-held presidency and given Lebanon's Muslim majority more say in the government.

Political sources told Reuters Syrian leaders were still considering how to respond to the setback to their peace drive.

Prime Minister Rashid Kara ni and three cabinet ministers have said they will no longer deal with Mr. Gemayel, whose government has long suffered near-paralysis.

abishment of an independent Palestinian state," the communist said. The phrasing of the statement is in line with the resolutions of the 16th session of the PNC, held in Algiers in 1983, and which were endorsed by all Palestinian factions and supported by the Soviet Union.

Palestinians sources expected the improvement in Soviet-Palestinian relations to reflect positively on efforts to reunite the PLO but did not anticipate any immediate results.

The Soviet Union, a long-standing ally of the PLO, did not take sides when internal conflicts erupted inside the organisation in the spring of 1983 or in the conflict between Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat. However, it had repeatedly called for PLO unity and the normalisation of relations between the leadership of the PLO and Syria.

Contacts between the PLO and the Soviet leadership continued but PLO delegations which visited Moscow over the last three years,



PRINCE HASSAN VISITS ARMY HQ: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan met with Armed Forces Commander in Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker at the army headquarters, Prince Hassan was met on arrival by Army Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Fathi Abu Taleb, his assistants and the commander of the Royal Jordanian Air Force (Petra photo)

Thatcher meets Peres

LONDON (Agencies) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Israeli Premier Shimon Peres held talks on Wednesday which officials said focused on Middle East peace efforts. After an hour-long meeting, Peres told reporters he and Mrs. Thatcher had examined new ideas to break the deadlock in the Middle East. "Time is running out and there is a need to make additional steps," he said.

According to British officials, the "key requirement" is to find representative Palestinians, acceptable both to Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), who would take part in a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to peace talks.

Peres arrived here Tuesday night from The Netherlands on the second leg of a European tour which will also take him to West Germany.

His Majesty King Hussein held talks with Mrs. Thatcher and special U.S. envoy to the Mideast Richard Murphy earlier this week in London. Mr. Murphy flew to The Hague to meet Peres, who was visiting The Netherlands, and returned to London.

Peres was also expected to meet Mr. Murphy during his present stay in London. Peres told reporters in The Hague on Tuesday he believed there was agreement on at least half the problems standing in the way of a Middle East breakthrough.

"We have negotiated 50, maybe 55 per cent of them. There are still 45 per cent of the problems to be solved," he said.

British officials, speaking after the Peres-Thatcher meeting, played down hopes of an early breakthrough, saying there were still major problems to be overcome.

The British position has been that the question would be reconsidered only after Israel ended its residual military presence in South Lebanon.

sources did not elaborate on the PLO mediation with the Muslim groups.

A visit by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to Moscow last December.

"President Hussein explained to the Soviet leaders the PLO's stand and discussed with them the Feb. 11 agreement," the sources said. "He clarified the Palestinian position on many issues to the Soviet leaders and helped in clearing the atmosphere between the two sides," they added.

In principle, the Soviet stand has not changed. The difference, according to the sources, is that the Soviets "have shown increased readiness to listen to the PLO leadership and expressed better understanding of the leadership's position and interpretation of the situation in the Middle East and of Syrian-Palestinian relations."

The Soviet leaders urged the PLO to take positive steps towards reunifying the PLO and explored means and venues for achieving that goal, the sources said. One of the means which were dis-

Muslims appeal for world support to protect Jerusalem

MARRAKESH (Agencies) — An appeal in the name of one billion Muslims was to be launched from Marrakesh on Wednesday seeking support against Israeli actions at Islamic holy places in Jerusalem.

King Hassan II of Morocco told the opening session of the Jerusalem Committee set up by the 46-member Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) that the appeal, to be signed by all Islamic heads of state, would ring like "an alarm bell."

The meeting was also expected to take practical steps to avoid new incidents at the Al Aqsa Mosque, Islam's third holiest shrine after Mecca and Medina, conference sources told Reuters.

King Hassan offered to send 100 Moroccan volunteers to help guard the mosque although it was not immediately clear, the sources said, if Israel would let them into the occupied territories.

The Al Aqsa Mosque, built on the site where the Prophet Mohammad is said to have ascended to heaven, is currently guarded by about 40 unarmed Palestinians paid from the OIC Al Qods Fund.

PARIS (R) — U.S. Deputy Secretary of State John Whitehead, visiting eight allied capitals to urge participation in U.S. sanctions against Libya, spent one and a half hours on Wednesday in talks with French External Relations Minister Roland Dumas.

A U.S. spokesman said Mr. Whitehead was also seeing Interior Minister Pierre Joxe, who coordinates French security against terrorist attacks, and Jacques Attali, President Francois Mitterrand's closest aide, on Wednesday.

Mr. Whitehead arrived in the French capital Tuesday night from Bonn where he urged West Germany to cut its oil imports from Libya, to close Tripoli's mission in Bonn and to halt air connections between Libya and West Germany.

The West Germans have refused to join in economic sanctions against Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi (See page 2).

In Bern, the Swiss government announced on Wednesday it will not join the U.S. call for sanctions against Libya.

The federal council, neutral Switzerland's collective executive, has sent a letter to President Reagan informing him of its position, government spokesman Achille Casanova told reporters.

The United States imposed a trade boycott and other measures against Libya in the wake of last month's attacks at Rome and Vienna airports, for which it blamed Colonel Qadhafi.

France, whose trade with Libya already has been drastically cut, considers itself the only country to have responded positively to the

they said. The Jerusalem Committee's extraordinary meeting, the first in two years, follows incidents at Al Aqsa. A group of Israeli parliamentarians visited the area twice this month.

Speakers at the opening session said the Islamic World had to react strongly because these visits and other incidents were signs of Israel's intention to take over the mosque. The Jews believe that the mosque is built over the site of an ancient Jewish temple.

OIC Secretary-General Sharifuddin Pirzadeh said the Israeli government may decide to occupy Al Aqsa.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat said: "Resolutions and decisions by the Israeli government and parliament leave no doubt that the intention is to destroy the Al Aqsa Mosque and to replace it with the Solomon Temple."

The Islamic appeal will also be sent to the Pope. Mr. Arafat said that Israel's policy of transforming Jerusalem into a purely Jewish city was aimed as much against Christians as Muslims.

Majorities of Arab towns in Israel have expressed concern to the leader of Jerusalem's Muslims about the need to protect Al Aqsa Mosque.

Sheikh Saadaddin Al Alami, mufti of Jerusalem, told Reuters that seven Arab mayors visited the Al Aqsa Mosque on Tuesday and expressed their support.

In New York, United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar received a message from Jordan's U.N. Ambassador Abdullah Saleh on the situation in occupied Jerusalem and outlining Israeli violations of the sanctity of Haram Al Sharif and other holy places in the occupied Arab lands.

In the message, Mr. Saleh said Zionist elements led by rabbies tried to storm the holy shrine and clashed with the Arab worshippers.

The message referred to a similar violation of the holy shrine of Al Ibrahim Mosque in Hebron in the occupied West Bank last Friday. The incident resulted in clashes between Arab worshippers and Jewish settlers.

Whitehead seeks French backing for sanctions

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Urquhart arrives in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — Mr. Brian Urquhart, the U.N. assistant secretary-general for political affairs, arrived in Amman on Wednesday on a visit to Jordan expected to last several days.

Mr. Urquhart will meet with Prime Minister Zaid Rifaai and senior government officials for talks on Middle East affairs and international issues.

Acting Foreign Minister Hazem Nuseibeh hosted a banquet Wednesday night in honour of Mr. Urquhart. Dr. Nuseibeh also presented to the U.N. assistant secretary-general the Independence Medal of the First Order on behalf of His Majesty King Hussein. The medal was presented to Mr. Urquhart in recognition of his 30 years of service at the U.N.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Prince Ra'ed opens bazaar for the blind

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prince Ra'ed bin Zaid Wednesday announced the opening of a charitable bazaar at the Prince Ra'ed bin Zaid which organised the event in cooperation with the friends of the blind society. The three-day bazaar includes handicrafts designed by the blind. The college's principal gave a speech in which he outlined the importance of supporting the society and he offered the society two scholarships which would help two of the society's blind students. On behalf of the blind students, Prince Ra'ed for his continued support. Prince Ra'ed also awarded the college's shield.

Ain in resume Cairo to Aqaba flights

AMMAN (J.T.) — Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, has announced that it will resume the operations of its regular flights from Cairo to Aqaba starting Feb. 1. This flight was suspended due to repair work being conducted on the runway at Aqaba Airport. Aqaba Airport has been going through a major repair job on its runway and tarmac, which caused the closure of the airport daily from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. local time.

Ministry plans north-south rail link

AMMAN (J.T.) — In a bid to link the north and south of Jordan, a railway project to be carried out by the Ministry of Transport, will be launched soon at an estimated cost of JD 150 million, according to sources at the ministry. The sources, quoted by the Arabic daily newspaper Al-Rai, said that the project will link Aqaba with the northern point where the Syrian, Iraqi and Jordanian borders meet. The sources added that the wide-gauge railway is expected to transport between 6 and 13 million tonnes of goods annually which, they said, will benefit Jordan's economy.

Arab Wings chief meets Omani officials

MUSCAT (Petra) — Arab Wings Director General Sharif Ghazi Rakan, who is currently on a visit to Oman, Wednesday met with the under-secretary of the Omani Ministry of Communications and senior officials from the ministry and the Omani aviation services company. During the meeting, the two sides discussed cooperation between Arab Wings and the Omani company. Sharif Ghazi also proposed that Arab Wings place one of its aircraft in Oman to serve senior Omani officials and businessmen. In a press statement following the meeting, Sharif Ghazi said Oman is the only Gulf state which holds shares in the Arab Wings pointing out that contacts are underway with a number of other Gulf states to hold shares in this company.

Pupil wins prize in international contest

AMMAN (J.T.) — Taghreed Mofa'naad Hishan, a Jordanian kindergarten student, has won an award from the New Delhi-based Shankar International Institution for arts and literature for her participation in the foundation's annual contest. Miss Hishan's painting entitled "Winter" won her a silver medal along with a book. Her kindergarten school, which is run by the Department of Social Development in Salt, was also awarded a silver medal for its encouragement of art. The institution conducts yearly art and literature contests and invitations are extended to all children of the world who are under 16 years of age.

Tourism director visits Madaba sites

MADABA (Petra) — Tourism Authority Director General Nasri Abdullah Wednesday made an inspection tour of archaeological sites in Madaba and was briefed on their needs by officials. The requirements of the sites will be provided for in the authority's five-year plan. Mr. Abdullah said he was accompanied on the tour by a number of engineers and specialists in tourist and archaeological affairs.



URQUHART ARRIVES: U.N. Assistant Secretary General Brian Urquhart (centre), who arrived on Wednesday for talks with senior officials on the Mideast and other issues, is received by Jordan's Ambassador to U.N. Abdullah Saleh (right) and Foreign Ministry Secretary-General Tayseer Touqan (Petra photo)

Frost damages crop in Balqa region

AMMAN (J.T.) — The sharp and sudden drop in temperature and the frost which hit Balqa Governorate over the past week have caused damage to a number of crops, particularly cucumbers and tomatoes, according to a report submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture by the Balqa Department of Agriculture. In the report, the department said that it had distributed more than 18,000 fruit tree saplings to farmers in Balqa Governorate to be planted during the current agricultural season. According to the report, there has been an increase in poultry production and a noticeable drop in the demand for poultry meat in the governorate over the past month causing prices to fall to 450 fils a kilo.

Meanwhile, a report submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture on the effect of scraping price controls on the sale of agricultural products in Jordan said that since the measure went into effect six weeks ago, vegetable and fruit prices have been unstable. But in general, the quantities of vegetables and fruit arriving at the central market place in Amman increased and more crops were exported during this period, the report said.

The report said wholesale prices of most commodities retreated by three to 25 per cent in view of the over supply of certain crops, which mostly came from the Jordan Valley.

Councils to discuss local government, public services

AMMAN (Petra) — A general conference for heads of municipal councils in Jordan will be held in Aqaba between March 15 and 19 to discuss matters of concern to municipalities and village councils in Jordan, according to a cabinet decision announced Wednesday.

The announcement said that some 257 heads of municipal and village councils in Jordan, along with representatives from the Arab Cities Organisation and a large number of people interested in municipal affairs and the development of local government, are expected to take part in the five-day conference.

Several working papers are on the conference's agenda and these papers are designed to find solutions to problems faced by municipal and village councils. The papers will tackle financial, legal and administrative aspects of

Rehabilitation centre

During its weekly session, the cabinet also decided to allow the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) in Jordan to make use of a piece of state-owned land at Jweidah to build a centre for the rehabilitation of severely handicapped old people. GUVS will supervise the building of the centre on a five-dunum plot and will also finance its operations, according to the announcement. The projected centre will be the first of its kind in Jordan.

Marketing Jordan as a venue for regional conferences

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A local travel agent has found a new way to sell Jordan to international foreign firms and corporations by encouraging them to hold their regional conferences and annual meetings in the Kingdom. His efforts seem to be paying off.

Mr. Munir Nassar, director of International Traders, has arranged to make Aqaba the venue for holding a regional conference for Carrier, a U.S. manufacturer of air conditioning equipment. Their conference, which started on Tuesday, will run through Saturday. The agency also arranged the venue for the American Express company regional conference which opens in Amman on Feb. 1.

Mr. Nassar told the Jordan Times that Carrier had the choice of holding their conference in Dubai or Bahrain, their head office before choosing Aqaba "because we got them better rates." Besides good rates, Mr. Nassar said, facilities needed for holding such a conference were available at the Holiday Inn where they are currently meeting. He also said that there are other reasons for choosing Aqaba: "The reason why such companies hold their conferences abroad is because these meetings represent fringe benefits for the company's executives. The entertainment side is very important," he pointed out.

Mr. Nassar said that Jordan offers a variety of good restaurants and good hotels while Aqaba makes a tremendous venue for conferences. The reason why such companies hold their conferences abroad is because these meetings represent fringe benefits for the company's executives. The entertainment side is very important," he pointed out.

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Ministry organises Islamic festival

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs will launch a six-month Islamic cultural programme throughout Jordan as of April 1, in order to increase Islamic cultural awareness among people. Participants in the six-month festival on Islam will be Islamic thinkers and scientists from Jordan and other Arab and Islamic countries.

Mayors express reservations over Greater Amman council

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The majority of municipal councils in the outskirts of Amman still oppose a draft project to merge their legislative bodies into one collective "Greater Amman" council whereas others made their endorsement of the merger conditional, according to mayors interviewed by the Jordan Times over the past week.

The mayors of Juhelha, Qweisneh, Abu Alanda, Wadi Seer, Turek and Khreibet Alsouk village councils expressed reservations over the merger of all the local municipal councils, including Amman Municipality, into one body. They contended that such a procedure would negatively affect public services and would create centralisation thereby complicating legal procedures for the public.

A petition has been sent to the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment re-

Arbor Day celebrations continue

AMMAN (Petra) — An artificial flower festival will open at the Housing Bank Centre in Amman on Saturday in the course of the country's Arbor Day celebrations. The festival, to be opened under the patronage of Princess Wijdan Ali, will include a display of indoor and outdoor plants and flowers, a painting exhibition by school children and artificial flowers. Gifts and awards will be presented to participating children.

The Public Security Department (PSD) Wednesday celebrated Arbor Day with a tree-planting celebration held at Tarek, near Amman. During the celebration, held under the patronage of Acting PSD Director Major General Sami Al Saket, 1,000 forest and fruit tree saplings were planted by participating PSD personnel. The celebration was held at the grounds of the police academy and attended by the PSD assistant director for administration.

To mark the Federal Republic of Germany's participation in the Kingdom's Arbor Day celebrations, West German Ambassador to Jordan Herwig Bartels will participate in the Ministry of Agriculture's tree planting activities on Sunday. Dr. Bartels will join staff from the Department of Forestry and Soil Conservation and members of the Jordanian-German forestry project and tree-planting crews in afforestation works at the Amman agricultural directorate near Yajuz.

The West German ambassador, together with the department's director Ghaleb Abu Orabi, will also plant trees at the department's headquarters in Kamalya, near Sweilch.

According to a press release issued by the West German Embassy in Amman, the federal government has cooperated with the Department of Forestry and Soil Conservation in developing Jordan's forestry since 1974. The federal government's cooperation has been through consulting with and assisting the department in all matters of forestry.

The press release said that joint German-Jordanian forestry activities over the past 12 years included mechanisation of forest works, the establishment of a forest training centre, the introduction of a wireless communication system as well as improvements in forest fire prevention and forest fire-fighting measures.

This joint cooperation will continue until 1988 as part of a new project aimed at further improvements in afforestation and forest fire prevention, the release added.

he negated as the projected council would assume power to deal with the current responsibilities of municipal councils and thereby kill the spirit of competition amongst small municipalities. Mr. Lawzi said. The projected council would handle all planning schemes, undertake construction projects and would incorporate all public services into one section, he continued.

Um Guseir Mayor Abdul Kareem Drou' favoured another alternative which states that every municipality should be a separate legislative body affiliated to Amman Municipality. This would replace the current municipal councils, he said. Mr. Drou' however, said that every legislative department should have its own allocations, revenues and expenditure. They should also have a free hand in issuing official licences and other related documents, he added.

Moreover, bids for tenders related to municipalities should also be forwarded from the legislative body in question with the endorsement of Amman Municipality if deemed necessary. Mr. Drou' said. He went on to say that it was "acceptable" to turn municipalities into independent departments affiliated to Amman Municipality, but at the same time it is not feasible to "cancel" a number of municipalities to form a collective council. "The formation of such a council will by no means serve the public interest," Mr. Drou' said.

The project, as outlined by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, provides for the formation of new municipal councils with the head of each council representing his municipality in the "Greater Amman Council."

Company signs land purchase agreement for first foundry

AMMAN (Petra) — A local company, the Arab Engineering Industries Company, will buy 130 dunums of land owned by the Jordanian Industrial Estates Corporation (JIEC) to build a foundry, according to an agreement signed in Amman on Wednesday.

The project is expected to create 500 new jobs and will cost nearly JD 20 million to carry out, according to a JIEC statement. The agreement was signed for the JIEC by its Director General Fayez Suhelmat and by Dr. Bassem Al Saket, chairman of the board of directors of the company.

Saqqaf chairs industry talks

AMMAN (Petra) — A number of procedures and issues of concern to the industrial sector in Jordan were discussed during a meeting held Wednesday at the Amman Chamber of Industry under the chairmanship of Ministry of Industry and Trade Under-Secretary Mohammad Al Saqqaf. Attending the meeting were the chairman and members of the chamber's board of directors and ministry officials.

Mr. Saqqaf stressed the necessity for cooperation between the ministry and the Amman Chamber of Industry with regard to supporting and protecting local industry.

He also pointed out that there were new protection lists for a number of Jordanian industries which will be announced shortly. The chamber's board of directors also discussed obstacles and difficulties facing some industrial sectors.

Yemenia continues to expand

The national airline of Yemen Arab Republic, Yemenia, continues to expand its network dramatically. From April 5, 1986 Yemenia will open the new weekly service to Istanbul and Moscow. This brings the total international destinations to twenty seven cities in three continents: Europe, Asia and Africa. The airline's network extends from London to Bombay and from Addis Ababa to Moscow.

In the past few years, Yemenia merged from a regional operator to a successful and competitive international carrier by expanding its wings to Europe and South Asia to exotic cities such as London, Amsterdam, Frankfurt, Paris, Karachi, Bombay etc. to mention only a few.

Local film company launches drive to promote Arab, Islamic culture

By Leila Deeb

AMMAN — A Jordanian company plans to make a documentary on the role of Islam to be filmed in nine countries for distribution in Europe, the Middle East and America.

The company, aiming to develop Arab art and culture through television, radio and the cinema, recently launched a 20-hour serialised Arab variety show costing about \$355,000.

Production Manager Zaid Fariz told Reuters the show, being shown on Jordan Television, had already been sold to six Arab stations in other countries.

The Jordan Company for Television, Radio and Cinema Production was set up in 1983 with capital equivalent to about \$21 million and with 51 per cent Jordanian government ownership. Director-General Munir Durra said: "The company must be Jordan's ambassador to the world, a messenger to expatriates, carrying to them Jordanian and Arab culture, developing and enriching art and reflecting Arab civilisation," he said.

Mr. Fariz said its plans include

dramatic, comedy and educational programmes. Drama productions, in classical Arabic and local dialects, will be collective efforts with countries such as Egypt and Iraq. He said the most important work would be a documentary on the historical and global role of Islam, the first part of which would be shot in Algeria, Morocco and Oman. Other locations for the documentary — in Arabic, English and French — are Egypt, India, Iraq, Spain, Syria and Turkey.

Mr. Fariz said the film, made for distribution in Europe, the Middle East and the United States, would be directed by Adnan Al-Ramahi of Jordan.

He said another project was a joint venture with Zenith films of West Germany to produce in German and English a six-hour dramatised version of mystery stories of bedouin origin.

Educational programme

Mr. Fariz said the company also planned to co-produce with New York's Children's Television Workshop — makers of Sesame Street — a programme called "Al-Manabel" (the sources).

The biggest educational programme produced in any Arab country, it will be shown next year at a total cost of \$5.5 million, including \$3.5 million from U.S. aid to Jordan and \$1.5 million from the Jordanian government. Mr. Fariz added.

The company, which claims to have the largest studios in Africa and the Middle East, last month moved into new premises built and equipped by contracted firms from Austria and Britain.

The variety show launched on television this month was called "Husseini Fahmi's Salon," featuring Egyptian screen idol Fahmi with works of noted Arab stars.

The first show included Egyptian stage and cinema star Aminah Rizk recreating several of the roles she performed with the late Youssef Wahbah and others from the heyday of the Egyptian theatre.

Apart from Jordan the show, which is the first such production to be serialised in the Arab World, has already been aired on television in Abu Dhabi, in the United Arab Emirates, Iraq, Kuwait, North Yemen, Oman and Qatar.



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5 FLIGHTS TO THE GULF

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COLOMBO, DHAKA
AND THE FAR EAST



The challenge of health

SEVERAL days ago, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan pointed out the need to develop incentives to encourage more Jordanian doctors to work in rural areas. This would serve two important objectives: the delivery of health services on a more egalitarian basis between urban and rural areas, and offering expanded work opportunities to Jordanian doctors. It is a source of pride for the country that we have thousands of young doctors, but it is alarming to recognise that some of those doctors are without sufficient work.

The encouragement of more village- and rural-based doctors would also serve a third objective that has not always been sufficiently addressed in our country: heightening the awareness of villagers and *badia* dwellers of the most basic primary and preventive health care techniques, such as sanitation, vaccination and breast feeding. The tendency in many Third World countries is for the government and the private sector to build elaborate, expensive hospitals in the large urban centres. While these facilities certainly play an important role, the relative efficacy of building and operating expensive curative medical facilities has to be weighed against the results that would be obtained from spending the same amount of money on primary health care strategies in the villages and the rural areas.

We are a small, relatively healthy country, with easy access to all our population centres. It would not be difficult to launch and sustain a nation-wide primary health education campaign, using the skills of our thousands of doctors to help establish village- and community-based groups who would bridge the gap between the medical expertise concentrated in our urban centres and the application of that knowledge at the grass-roots level. This is common sense, and the government is already trying to conduct such an effort through its health clinics and mother and child care centres. But the magnitude of the effort has to be multiplied many times over — if we are to understand health for our people as the challenge of helping people to avoid becoming ill, rather than training them to come to a hospital in the big city every time they fall ill.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Who takes the blame?

THE current Israeli onslaught on Al Aqsa Mosque and other holy shrines in the occupied Arab territories is a flagrant defiance of all peace-loving nations and the Arab and Muslim countries around the world. All such nations should take proper action to stop Israel's acts of sacrilege and should put an end to its arrogance. We believe that the violator of the holy shrines in Jerusalem is far more dangerous than Israel's aggression on Lebanon, because it demonstrates our enemy's total disregard to our faith. This violation is a crime that should be confronted by the world community in general and those Arab and Muslim nations, which care for their religious places, in particular. Special responsibility in this respect lies with the Organisation of Islamic Conference which handles issues of concern to the Islamic world. The United States is of course to blame for criminal actions committed by its Israeli ally which continues to use American help to strike at the Arabs and their cultural and religious interests and places of worship. The onslaught on the holy shrines in Jerusalem has become official, now that members of the Israeli government and parliament are fully involved in the act. We appeal to all countries, to the Vatican and all peace-loving nations to take proper steps and end this aggression on our religion and our faith. We the Arabs bear the responsibility for not doing anything meaningful to stop the tragedy and the danger threatening our religious shrines in occupied Palestine.

Al Dustour: Egypt's affiliation

A statement by Egyptian Foreign Minister Ismat Abdul Majid to the people's council in Cairo has reaffirmed Egypt's determination to work towards the establishment of a lasting peace, based on justice in the Middle East region. This statement reflects a balanced policy and is bound to gain backing and confidence for President Mubarak's government at local and regional levels. In his statement, Dr Abdul Majid made it clear that the Tabu issue with Israel is not the only obstacle that impedes peace and that Israel should undertake other constructive steps to help achieve that goal. In his statement the minister expressed Egypt's total opposition to Israel's practices in the Islamic holy places in Jerusalem, which he described as provoking Muslim people's religious feelings. The future of relations between Egypt and Israel and the establishment of peace can only come through the restoration of the Palestinian people's rights in their homeland. This was clearly pointed out in the statement which proved once again that President Mubarak was following a balanced policy and always demonstrating his country's affiliation to the Arab Nation.

Sawt Al Shaab: Peres' mission

THE Israeli prime minister's current tour of European countries is clearly designed to undermine the concept of reaching peace along the lines described by the Arab countries which want to convene an international conference and involve the superpowers to achieve that goal. Shimon Peres has a mission of distorting the Arab image in Europe and removing the concept about the Israelis as terrorists committing crimes in the holy places of Jerusalem and launching aggression on Arab countries. In his statements in Europe, Peres has been saying that the state of Israel does not accept any involvement of the international community in the peace process and does not want to talk to the representatives of the Palestinian people who are most concerned with the problem. What Peres wants to underline is his own concept of direct negotiations with the Arabs in which he hopes to impose capitulation on them and perpetuate the occupation of their land. He is carrying out his mission abroad as Zionist groups continue to desecrate the holy places in the occupied Arab territory and seize Arab lands and evict their owners.

VIEW FROM AMERICA

Superpowers' understanding: Peace at the expense of justice

By Franz Schurmann

SAN FRANCISCO — Bit by bit it is becoming clear that the U.S. and the Soviet Union reached some sort of mutual understanding about Afghanistan during the Geneva summit meeting between President Reagan and Chairman Gorbachev.

It is also bit by bit becoming clear that a similar U.S.-Soviet understanding will soon lead to a resumption of Soviet-Israeli diplomatic relations. And that resumption could lead to thousands of Soviet Jews migrating to Israel.

It is also apparent that both the U.S. and the Soviet Union support the tripartite agreement in Lebanon which has finally been signed in Damascus.

And it is suggested by Soviet statements that both superpowers are in agreement that the Iraq-Iran war must be

ended or at least maintained in the current stalemate.

In fact, it would seem that, in the secret corridors of diplomacy, there is a lot of mutual understanding and perhaps also agreement between the U.S. and the Soviet Union on the Middle East. Both superpowers know that the most likely place the fires of World War Three could ignite is the Middle East.

Consider first the Afghan situation. The Soviets and their Afghan allies control the cities, though not totally. The Mujahidin roam through the countryside. One fourth of the population are refugees who hate the Russians to the death. It is hard to believe that the Soviets and the Babrak Karmal regime have any supporters beyond their own paid agents.

Yet if there is a U.S.-Soviet understanding on Afghanistan,

it will mean that the U.S. agreed that the Karmal regime should stay in power. That means that regime will continue to control the big cities. What will be left to the Mujahidin will be a number of smaller towns. Would each side respect such a division of the country? No one can say, but if the U.S., the Soviet Union, China, Pakistan, India, and Iran agree that the conflict must end in Afghanistan, it may be hard for the Mujahidin and the Karmal forces to begin fighting again.

U.S. and Soviet diplomacy has long sought agreement among the big powers as ways to keep the smaller powers under control. Can such agreement control Iraq and Iran? No, but it can regulate the flow of weaponry to those countries. Can it control Syria? No, but it

makes it easier for Syria to supervise the agreement in Lebanon. Can it control Israel? Given the trickery and influence of the Israelis, the answer at first would appear to be no. Yet Israel's obvious military power is much greater than its political strength. Even in the Reagan Administration, Israeli influence is on the decline.

Yet what remains completely unclear is what U.S.-Soviet understanding will mean for the Palestinians. Will Washington and Moscow pressure Israel to give up a large part of the West Bank? U.S. newspapers have featured a few articles suggesting that Jewish settlement on the West Bank is declining, and that such settlements as there are, are mostly concentrated near and around Jerusalem. Is Soviet agreement to allow Jewish

emigration from the Soviet Union a "present" to the Peres government to make concessions on the West Bank?

Economic, as I have written in earlier commentaries, is the big issue now in Washington. Economics is a major source of Israeli weakness. It also is a factor constraining both Iran and Iraq to limit their war against each other. It is also a factor in U.S.-Soviet relations. The Soviet Union needs economic ties to the West. The U.S. needs a reduction in the cold war in order to provide favourable conditions for the world economy.

During this new year of 1986 we may see some moves on the Palestinian issue. If they come, they will have to come from Israel. And if they do come, then it will only be because of

American pressure. It is possible Washington and Moscow have decided that the Palestinian issue is too difficult, and so they will just let it smolder, like a low fire that, they hope, will not again turn into a big fire. It is also possible that some political forces in Israel may finally realise that their own future may be enhanced rather than harmed by some sort of understanding with their Palestinian foes.

If the big powers of the world ranging from the U.S. through Western Europe, the Soviet Union, China, Japan achieve some sort of understanding, then that will be good for world peace. Will it be good for world justice? That is not at all clear. But economics can be both a force for justice and injustice. This time it could just possibly help the Palestinian cause.

Harvard, the CIA and the Mossad

By Thomas Stauffer

THE recent scandal at Harvard took a curious turn when the university announced that Professor Nadav Safran, presently head of the Centre for Middle East Studies, will "resign" at the end of this academic year. Harvard's long-delayed decision was described by the student newspaper as "more like a eulogy than a censure," and it left most issues hanging. Curiously, while only noting "with sadness" that Professor Safran would resign, the dean dismissed the Middle East Centre's executive committee — the body which originally had called for Professor Safran's removal.

Professor Safran had earlier been charged with unethical behaviour for improperly accepting financial support from the CIA, in violation of the university's regulations concerning disclosure of funding, for his book on Saudi Arabia and a conference on Islamic fundamentalism. In neither case had he acknowledged the CIA's support, and indeed, most participants in last October's conference withdrew when Professor Safran's financial backing was revealed.

In trying to close the affair, Harvard did not address related issues: 1) Professor Safran's alleged connections with Israeli intelligence; 2) allegations of financial fraud, since he retained the overhead allowances on the contracts; and 3) further allegations of "impropriety" vis-a-vis students, which had triggered the original, accidental, discovery of his links to the CIA.

Harvard had initially denied the CIA link. Since then it has been disclosed that the former dean of the faculty of arts and sciences, Henry Rosovsky, who is also co-chairman of the American Jewish Committee and Professor Safran's foremost sponsor at Harvard, had known. It was later revealed that Arthur Rosenthal, director of Harvard University Press, also knew of the CIA funding for the book and approved publication without any disclosure of caveat.

The geometry of the Harvard-CIA-Mossad triangle has become more complex, and many suspect that more disclosures will follow up Harvard's curiously tolerant and reluctant response — "Middle East International, London."

American diplomats go into disguise

By Bryan Bramley
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In its campaign against terrorism, the State Department is telling American diplomats to leave behind their "Rambo T-shirts and red, white and blue jogging suits" and to take a cautious approach to living and working abroad.

"It's a sign of the times that I spend my first full day at the State Department attending a seminar on terrorism," said Margaret Heckler, who was recently named ambassador to Ireland.

Mrs. Heckler was one of 50 people attending a recent departmental seminar on "Coping with Violence Abroad." The one-day seminar teaches U.S. officials and their spouses how to avoid terrorists and what to do if they are attacked or taken hostage.

The course has been expanded to cope with increasingly frequent and bloody attacks on Americans abroad. Further improvements are planned to face the growing threat, and to counter criticism from diplomats.

Carol A. Madison, who was a public affairs officer in the U.S. embassy in Beirut 1983-84 when it was bombed twice, doesn't think the State Department course takes the right direction.

"I found it largely inadequate for preparing foreign service personnel for the stresses — both physical and psychological — that are part of living with terrorism," Ms. Madison wrote in the Foreign Service Journal, a magazine for diplomats.

Ms. Madison called the seminar "counterproductive because, by raising fears and then demonstrating techniques that only experts can perform to avoid terrorist attacks, it is apt to make people feel they are helpless to deal with the entire subject of terrorism and security."

Her criticism highlights the tightrope diplomats must walk abroad: to be effective, they must have as much contact as possible with local people and officials, but to be safe they often must live and work in heavily guarded buildings and present as small a target as possible.

"We are not trying to create a paramilitary corps; our mission is diplomacy," said Arnie Campbell, the Foreign Service Institute official who coordinates the training

seminar. He and other officials acknowledged that much of Ms. Madison's criticism was justified and has helped them reshape the programme.

In addition to the one-day session just outside Washington, foreign service officers get a one-day orientation at their overseas posts, including a briefing on local terrorist groups in the area and steps to cut the risk.

The Washington session began with an up-to-date briefing on terrorism, touching on the attacks in the Rome and Vienna airports, followed by a discussion of elementary steps to detect surveillance, deal with street crime or home burglary. It included a lecture on fire safety, and a detailed speech on how diplomats should organise their financial and business lives to prepare for possible evacuation from their posts or other risks.

A reporter was not allowed to attend a classified portion of the seminar, a lecture by a psychologist on how to behave if taken hostage, and a briefing on bombs.

Other tips ranged from advice telling diplomats to prepare a will and designate a guardian for their children how to react to a Molotov cocktail.

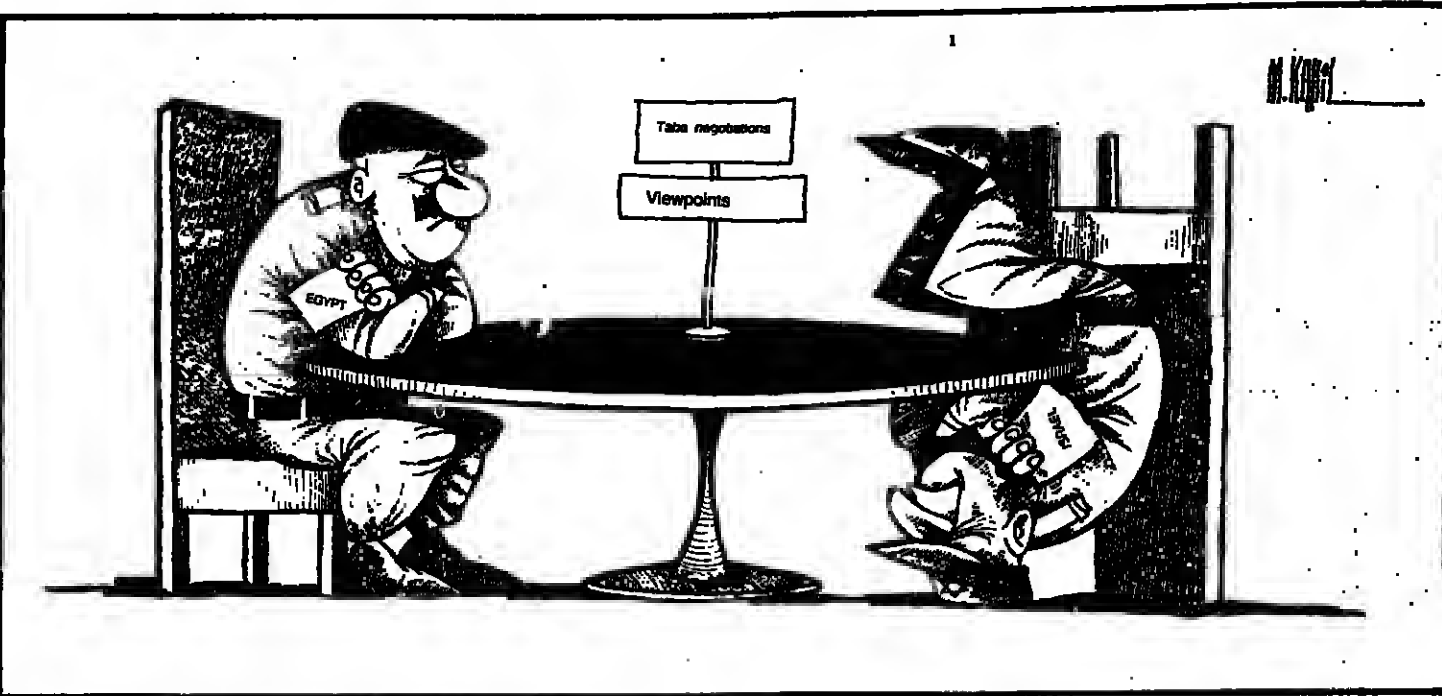
"If you are stuck in traffic and someone throws a Molotov cocktail, keep the windows shut and get out of the area as soon as possible. Despite what you have seen on television, the car will not blow up unless you open the windows," said special agent Mary Grigg.

"At some posts, they throw rats or snakes into your car, you jump out, and they leave with a new car," she said.

The key to avoiding danger, she said, is to vary daily routine and keep a low profile.

"Dress like the locals. Save your Rambo T-shirts and red, white and blue jogging suits for the marine ball," she said, warning diplomats against fancy clothes, jewelry or cars that might attract attention.

The seminars started in 1976. Additionally, the State Department has asked Congress for \$3.2 billion over five years to "batten" embassies and other overseas facilities against terrorism, and is sending mobile teams to high-risk areas to teach diplomats further ways to protect themselves.



Lesotho: The latest victim of S. African policies

By Victor Mallet
Reuters

CAPE TOWN — The Lesotho government of Prime Minister Leabua Jonathan, toppled in a military coup on Jan. 20, appears to be the latest victim of the struggle between Pretoria and its black rebel opponents operating from nearby countries.

In the past, South African forces have raided neighbouring Lesotho, Mozambique and Botswana in attacks which the white government in Pretoria said were aimed at rebels of the African National Congress (ANC).

Pretoria's forces have also pursued Namibian rebels deep into Angolan territory and supported various right-wing rebel groups in Southern Africa, prompting accusations that it was trying to des-

tabilise its neighbours and keep them weak.

The coup in the mountainous kingdom of Lesotho, which is surrounded by South Africa and economically dependent on it, followed nearly three weeks of intense South African pressure on the Jonathan government.

Supplies of fuel and food to Lesotho were severely restricted by tight South African border restrictions which Pretoria said aimed to control ANC rebels. Jonathan's government called the curbs a total economic blockade.

Diplomats and political analysts say it was the issue of Jonathan's support for the ANC and relations with South Africa which precipitated the coup.

South Africa is likely to welcome the new government, led by the commander of Lesotho's 1,500-member paramilitary force,

Major General Justin Lekhanyo, the analysts say.

Lekhanyo is said to be anti-Communist and could reverse Lesotho's recent move towards closer cooperation with the Eastern bloc — a move Pretoria found hard to accept in a country lying within South Africa's borders.

Hours before the coup announcement, South African foreign minister P. W. Botha told state-run Radio South Africa that Jonathan was a destabilising influence and ruled illegally.

Last week Lekhanyo, on the instructions of the Jonathan government, held talks in South Africa on the border crisis.

"He's a P. W. (Botha) boy and he'll toe the line," Bryan Bench of the South African Institute of International Affairs told Reuters. "For how long is another matter."

Pretoria is keen to sign non-

aggression pacts with its neighbours to prevent them supporting the ANC. It has signed agreements with Mozambique and Swaziland and a similar deal is now possible with the new Lesotho government, analysts say.

Jonathan had always resisted such a pact.

South African officials say that Jonathan's failure to hold elections was another factor in his downfall.

He had ruled since independence from Britain in 1966 and seized power in 1970 when it appeared that his Basutoland National Party was losing general elections.

"The border issue could have been the last straw," said one official who asked not to be named.

"This whole dissatisfaction has been fermenting for almost a decade in Lesotho."

Despite return to democracy, fears persist in Guatemala

By Bernd Debusmann
Reuters

GUATEMALA CITY — The advertisement, two days after Guatemala returned to democracy, was eloquent: It showed a station wagon against the background of a heavy tank and said "Protect Yourself, Armour Your Vehicle."

Splashed over two thirds of a page in the conservative Prensa Libre newspaper, the advertisement offered to armour every type of vehicle with "light materials highly resistant to bullets." It promised affordable prices, complete with instalment plans. It assured prompt maintenance.

And as a final sales point, Magnum Security Systems pledged to "change damaged bullet-proof windows."

The advertisement provided a vivid illustration of the "terrible legacy of mistrust and fear" Christian Democratic leader Vinicio Cerezo stressed in his inauguration speech as president of Guatemala.

Cerezo, a 43-year-old lawyer and political moderate, was sworn in on January 14 in a ceremony that marked Guatemala's return to constitutional, democratic government after more than three decades of military-dominated rule.

"In our political life, violence has been a permanent substitute for negotiation and compromise," Cerezo said. "Some Guatemalans opted for the absurd and primitive language of physical damage and armed reprisal."

"... Thousands of Guatemalan lives have fallen in this frightful vortex of fratricidal violence, hundreds of thousands of us have

suffered in one form or another from the effects of this general climate of oppression."

On the night of Cerezo's inauguration, at least 50,000 people packed into the main square of Guatemala City, dancing, singing and cheering in an emotional display of hope and confidence in their youthful new leader.

But beneath the euphoria and the joy, fears persist that old habits will die hard in a country where killings and "disappearances" became commonplace under a long string of right-wing military governments.

Up to 100,000 people are estimated to have been killed in the past three decades in army campaigns against left-wing guerrillas and suspected sympathisers. Neither side in the war, Central America's longest, have given any quarter.

"His is an extremely polarised country," said a veteran Western diplomat here. "For long, long years there have been only two colours — black and white. No shades of grey. It will take a long time to change attitudes here."

Those wealthy enough to armour their vehicles — Cerezo's own jeep station wagon was proofed against bullets and grenades at a cost of more than \$100,000 — fear being kidnapped and attacked by the armed left.

The fears of the wealthy run so deep that many coffee farmers in the fertile land along the Mexican border no longer dare to sleep on their estates, preferring instead to commute daily from towns under firm army control.

Those who stay on their plantations in the San Marcos province have automatic rifles at the ready in easy reach.

On the broad spectrum of poli-

tical opinion that is considered left in Guatemala, including the Christian Democratic Party, there are fears of a violent right-wing backlash.

Four days after Cerezo won a comfortable victory in run-off elections on December 8, a right-wing death squad made a gruesome reappearance after an absence of years.

The secret Anti-Communist Army (ESA), an organisation active in the 1970s, claimed responsibility for killing a young teacher who had been temporarily detained by the army on suspicion of having links with the left-wing rebels.

After her release from army detention, diplomats said, 27-year-old Beatriz Engenia Barrios Marroquin went to the Canadian embassy where she was granted a visa on grounds that her life was in danger.

A day before she was due to leave for Canada, officials said, her body was found with both hands cut off and a note signed by the ESA pinned to her chest. "There are more to come," the note said.

The ESA made headlines again a few days before Cerezo's inauguration when anonymous telephone callers told local newspapers that "drastic measures" would be taken against Nicaraguan president Daniel Ortega, one of four Latin American presidents who attended the ceremony.

The ESA failed to carry out its threat, possibly because Ortega was tightly guarded, but dubbed its initials on walls in several residential districts of the capital.

International human rights organisations have blamed the army and security forces for the maj-

ority of civilian killings since the CIA-sponsored coup that toppled reformist President Jacob Arbenz in 1954.

"One of the yardsticks against which Cerezo will be measured will be his ability to curb human rights abuses in Guatemala," said a European ambassador. "It would be premature to make predictions."

Cerezo pledged "profound respect for human rights" in his inauguration speech. But he also made clear he had no intention of following the example of Argentina's Raul Alfonsin in putting on trial military men involved in human rights abuses.

One of the last decrees passed by the outgoing military government of General Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores banned legal action against army personnel involved in hundreds of killings and disappearances.

The decree, made public less than 24 hours before Guatemala returned to civilian rule, declared a general amnesty for "common and political crimes" committed between March 23, 1982, and Cerezo's inauguration.

On March 23, 1982, Mejia Victores' predecessor, General Efraim Rios Montt, launched a ruthless counter-insurgency campaign in which thousands of civilians were reported to have been killed.

Legal experts here said the amnesty effectively demolished the legal basis for Guatemala's only human rights organisation, the Grupo Apoyo Mutuo (Mutual Support Group).

Apoyo Mutuo has been pressing the authorities to account for the fate of more than 770 missing Guatemalans — all of whom vanished in the period covered by the amnesty.

Farne arrives late for photographer Winston O. Link, acclaimed for his pictures of steam trains at night

By Daniel Machalaba

LANESBORO, Pa. — The temperature is near freezing, and a crust of snow covers the hillside overlooking this backwoods rail junction.

For three hours a small group of men clamber up and down the wooded slope in gathering darkness, lugging two van-loads of electric cables, high-intensity flashbulbs, reflectors and a ladder. Working by lantern light, they string the gear together and wire it to a battery of old-fashioned box cameras on tripods.

Then they wait. Within an hour, as a diesel train signals the slow, uphill approach of a freight train to the 100-foot-high stone viaduct that arches over Lanesboro, they finger their cameras nervously.

Through distant trees the locomotive headlights pierce the dark, then creep across the viaduct. When it reaches the far end, Howard Pincus clicks his shutter, and the scene vanishes in a silent flash of total whiteness.

Admirers and imitators

Mr. Pincus and his band are among the growing number of admirers and imitators of O. Winston Link, whose photography of steam trains racing through the Virginia countryside at night has come into sudden, if belated, vogue. Mr. Link took his pictures from 1955 until the Norfolk & Western Railway retired its last steam locomotive in 1960. Today his work is winning both widespread artistic acclaim and financial success.

"It was an absolute virtuoso performance," says John Szarkowski, director of the photography department at New York's Museum of Modern Art, which has acquired six Links. "His work has a strangeness and nostalgia that is remarkable."

Squat, balding and 71, Mr. Link has photographed a steam train at night for a quarter-century. But he isn't surprised by his newfound acclaim. "People are getting wise to this stuff now," says Mr. Link, a New York industrial photographer who snapped his black-and-white train photos between commercial assignments.

One photograph shows a monstrous steam locomotive blasting through a sleeping town; another captures a train speeding comelike past a herd of cows. Museums across the U.S. have acquired his prints, as have private collectors, including film director Steven Spielberg and actress Diane Keaton. A collection of his work is touring England, and another will visit U.S. preparatory schools.

People have "just gone wild" over Mr. Link, says Brooks Johnson, curator of photography at the Chrysler Museum in Norfolk, Va., whose catalogue of Link photographs, "Ghost Trains," is entering its third printing. The photos "cross from the train buff to the art world," Mr. Johnson says. Salim B. Lewis, a Wall Street arbitrator, recently donated \$50,000 to Milton Academy, a prep school near Boston, to enable the school to buy 100 Link photographs and put them on tour.

The usual price of Mr. Link's prints has climbed to about \$500, from \$250 a few years ago. But he receives \$800 for his most popular photograph, "Hot Shot Eastbound," a picture made in 1956 of a steam locomotive passing a drive-in movie as a couple in a convertible watch the image of an airplane on the screen.

Some critics note the cinematic lighting of his pictures. Others praise the surrealistic effect created by the trains speeding through quiet rural towns. Still others mention the eerie, dreamlike quality of those photos in which people in the foreground seem oblivious to the huge energy of the passing trains.

Mr. Link says he wasn't consciously striving to create art to "show what the railroad looked like at night and the way the railroad tied in with the community." He says he liked to photograph at night because "you can control the light and accent what you want; everything becomes dramatized."

He adds, "I was into steam, and when the Norfolk & Western stopped steam, I had to stop." All told, Mr. Link took more than 2,000 shots while on two- and three-week expeditions to Virginia and West Virginia. He started taking them when it became evident that the steam locomotive

was speeding toward extinction, and he photographed Norfolk & Western trains exclusively because that line still used plenty of steam locomotives then and because it agreed to cooperate with him.

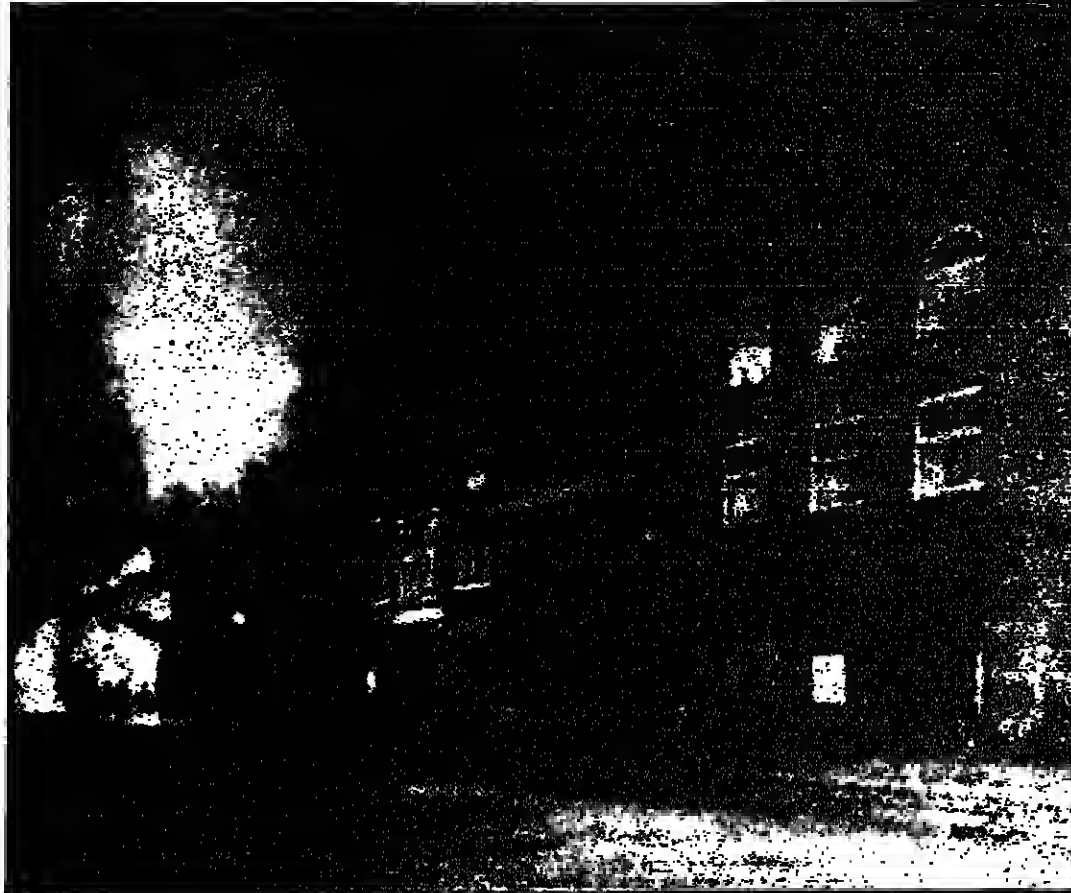
Not all of the pictures are the nighttime ones that have gained such acclaim, but several hundred of them are. For these, Mr. Link developed a system of synchronized flash, consisting of flashbulbs placed in scattered reflectors and wired to discharge simultaneously the split second he clicked the shutter. For "Hot Shot Eastbound," Mr. Link fired 43 flashbulbs, equal to about 200,000 100-watt incandescent light bulbs.

"He pushed that button and the night lit up like Jupiter had sent down a thunderbolt," says David Plowden, a photographer who once assisted Mr. Link. The flash was so bright, Mr. Link says, that on a few occasions locomotive engineers thought their boilers had exploded.

Not everyone is impressed. Mel Patrick, an amateur train photographer in Denver, criticizes the lighting in some of Mr. Link's pictures as excessive. "You might as well be looking at a hollywood set or a cheap used-car lot with the light bulbs strung out," he says.

Mr. Link says he needed intense light to capture the motion of steam locomotives and their billowing smoke. "I would still do everything exactly the same," he says. That includes the use of flashbulbs, which throw more light and require less power than electronic strobes. And it means stringing vast lengths of cable to trigger them. (Radio signals might be blocked by the trains.)

The Norfolk & Western gave Mr. Link access to its tracks and terminals, even providing a key to telephone boxes so that he could find out when trains were approaching. Although the railroad bought some prints for a promotional booklet, "Night Trick," Mr. Link shouldered the \$20,000 cost of his expeditions. Aside from the expense, he faced miserable working conditions. He shot in cold weather, when the steam was the most spectacular. He once stood on horse manure for nine



Main line on Main Street (1958)

hours, stringing up his lights and getting his gear ready, to take a picture.

Mr. Szarkowski of the Museum of Modern Art once called Mr. Link "a legitimate American genius, and not." Mr. Link, who doesn't dispute the description, says, "I had to be a nut to spend all that time and money and not be paid."

Today several groups of amateur photographers who fancy themselves Link disciples are willing to endure similar hardships. On this particular night in rural Lanesboro, Mr. Pincus's group, Rails After Dark, spends hours rigging 21 flashbulbs on a telephone pole, on signposts, and along the gravel right-of-way both on and below the viaduct. With distant dogs yelping at the commotion, Robert Hart Jr., a 30-year-old New Jersey postal worker, climbs a tree and clings precariously to a limb to position four

of the bulbs. "Heads up," he yells as a branch crashes to the ground 45 feet below him.

The group takes its first shot at 8 p.m., then waits 10 hours to photograph a second freight train rolling on a track beneath the viaduct at 6:25 a.m.

"This is a whole awful lot of work, but some shots can't be done any other way," says Mr. Pincus. Though some flashbulbs fail to fire, the finished prints capture the moving trains and the viaduct in vivid detail.

There is a limit to what they can produce, partly because modern diesel locomotives aren't as photogenic as the steam trains Mr. Link photographed. "In the days of steam the subjects were so much more alive," says Richard Steinheimer, a Sacramento, Calif., commercial photographer and night-flash buff. "It's the difference between photographing a fire-breathing dragon and a coo-

ker sparrow," he says.

When the Norfolk & Western retired steam in 1960, Mr. Link went back to his commercial work — taking pictures of factories for corporate clients, for instance. (Mr. Link bought a surplus steam locomotive that year that he hasn't yet finished restoring.) But with demand for his railroad photographs running high, Mr. Link now spends all his time in his Manhattan darkroom filling print orders.

He says he hasn't retired his flash gear, which he may want to use again to capture the image of owls at night. His initials spell "owl" — the O stands for Ogle — and he uses a picture of the bird framed in a camera shutter as his logo.

"Owls are some piece of work," says Mr. Link. "They look like airplanes coming in for a landing — they sail in. It would be terrific." — Wall Street Journal.

Randa Habib's

Marka airport

We SEEM to have forgotten the old airport at Marka, though it is still there: empty and useless. As we seem not to need it as an airport anymore, we certainly could find another use for it.

Why not, for example, transform it into a recreation area.

First of all the airport is ideally situated in the eastern part of Amman. That part of the city, more than any other area, is in dire need of a recreation centre.

Why not then turn the airport buildings into clubs for different activities: A library could be established there, a community centre and even a cinema.

A snack bar, at the place of the old bar, could also be reactivated. A car parking is already available, the buildings are there, and all it takes is some practical ideas and the guts to put them into effect.

As for the runway it could be turned into football, tennis or basketball courts. Trees should be planted as the land is big enough to allow people even to picnic there.

Yes, why not introduce the idea of picnics inside Amman. After all when the land is big enough, away from the main roads and planted with trees, people can enjoy the fresh air as they would enjoy it in any out-of-city area.

Anyhow, the most important idea is to find use for the airport instead of leaving it deteriorate slowly.

American women married to Libyans face dilemma

By Kate Dourian

Reuter

TRIPOLI — Less than two weeks before President Reagan's ban on travel to Libya by U.S. citizens comes into effect, a number of American women married to Libyans have still not been officially told whether they are exempt from the ban.

As a result, an estimated 100 or more American women in Libya are facing a dilemma: whether they should respect their conjugal vows and stay with their husbands or return home without their families.

At least one of them has already chosen to leave her husband of five years for fear of prosecution by her government if she does not leave by February 1.

Three women interviewed here by Reuters and the New York Times said they have contacted the Belgian embassy, which handles U.S. interests in Libya, for clarification and were told that there is still no news from Washington regarding their status.

Belgium's Ambassador Rolan Bruni responded with a "no comment" when questioned by Reuters on the matter.

Reagan imposed a trade and commercial ban on Libya in retaliation for what he claimed was Libya's policy of training and harbouring terrorists following the December 27 attacks on Rome and Vienna airports. He ordered the estimated 1,500 Americans in Libya to leave by February 1 or face prosecution at home.

The three women interviewed asked that they not be identified.

"I'm here to be with my husband. I'm not hurting anybody and I'm not here for money," said Mary, a mother of two, who has been living with her husband in Libya for seven years.

"What do they expect us to do, divorce our husbands?"

Nadine, 45, faces a more dif-

icult choice. She has five children by her first husband in the United States whom she visits yearly. Now she is worried that the travel ban will deprive her from seeing her American children.

She has two other children in Libya and speaks fluent Arabic. "We have blood ties here, my children are Libyan, we all have Libyan families here... to tell you the truth, it's safer here than in the streets of America," Nadine said.

The third American, Rebecca, is one of the lucky ones. Her husband has agreed to let her go home and hopes to join her.

"I'm not sleeping like I used to. I'm afraid," she said, referring to her fear of prosecution if she does not heed Reagan's executive order.

Under Libyan law, a man has to give written permission for his children to accompany their mothers for travel abroad. Many American women, whose children hold Libyan citizenship, cannot leave even if they wanted to. Rebecca said, "Lots of women have been told they can leave, but they can't take their children because their husbands won't let them," she added.

Diplomats and airline sources say some Americans working in Libya have already left since the ban was announced and the majority of U.S. companies have informed them that they plan to pull out by the deadline.

Belgian embassy sources said some U.S. families had complained that the remaining time for their departure was too brief to allow them to sell their possessions and pack their belongings.

Many Americans employed by oil companies earn an average of \$80,000 to 90,000 a year and at least one oil worker has said that he did not expect to find a job back home because of his age. Many workers are over 50 because the Libyans only want people only with 15 years experience.

Americans change travel plans through fear of attacks

By Michael Hughes

Reuter

NEW YORK — Fear of guerrilla attacks is prompting thousands of Americans to alter their travel plans and shun Mediterranean holidays in favour of Far Eastern, Caribbean or United States resorts.

Travel agents and cruise line operators said that recent hijackings and attacks have caused Americans to think much more about travel security and to avoid southern European and Middle

East destinations. The past seven months have seen the hijacking shortly after take-off from Athens of a Trans World Airlines (TWA) jetliner carrying 104 American passengers, the seizure of an Italian cruise liner, and the twin attacks on Rome and Vienna airports. Seven Americans have been among those killed.

After the TWA hijacking, during which a group of American men were held in Beirut until their release was negotiated, a poll commissioned by the U.S. Travel Data Centre indicated that of 6.5

million Americans who had made reservations abroad, 1.4 million changed them after the hijacking.

Summing up current attitudes, Detroit travel agent Carolina Ianni told Reuters: "People have been very hesitant about going to Europe... they ask if they are going to be terrorised, if they are going to be hijacked."

Many of those cancelling holiday flights would probably have booked cruises instead, travel agents said, but the seizing of the Italian cruise ship Achille Lauro last October changed that. "There was a rush of cabin can-

cellations immediately after the hijacking and now demand for Mediterranean cruises has simply dried up," said Carroll Falge, a Miami cruise organiser.

She said tourists were turning to alternative cruise destinations — the Caribbean, Latin America and Scandinavia.

In California, the Princess Cruise Line has cancelled all 18 Mediterranean cruises it had planned this year for its liner Pacific Princess which can carry 636 passengers.

Royal Viking Line has cancelled seven of 10 Mediterranean

cruises that its Royal Viking Sky Liner, which carries 710 passengers, was to have made this year.

Royal Viking president Joseph Waters said the cancelled cruises would cost his company \$20 million in revenue, unless alternative voyages were organised.

In Florida also, lines have cancelled Mediterranean cruises following the Achille Lauro hijack. Security at Miami, the world's busiest cruise ship port, was tightened after the Achille Lauro incident.

Passengers boarding most of the

21 cruise liners based there now pass through checkpoints with X-ray machines and armed guards.

Miami ticket agents said flights to the Middle East and southern Europe had plenty of empty seats, with travellers saying they were scared to go there.

New York City travel agent Naomi Kahak said: "There is a definite fall-off in foreign travel. How serious it is I can't tell at the moment. I think all of us in the travel industry are concerned about a long-term trend against foreign travel."

East Germany moves to defuse discontent among homosexuals

By Ralph Boulton

Reuter

EAST BERLIN — Not long ago an East German could be ordered out of a "gay" bar for kissing a boyfriend in public. But there are signs that the Communist state is moving to defuse discontent among young homosexuals.

East German authorities are considering a report by a special university commission which met last year to explore problems facing homosexuals.

The secrecy surrounding the project shows the continued sensitivity about a problem long banished from the media, but many homosexuals feel its influence is being felt in a state of candid newspaper articles and an easing of some harsh rulings.

August 1 saw the lifting of a ban on personal newspaper advertisements for homosexuals seeking partners. An East Berlin disco has opened its doors to homosexuals on Sunday nights.

adding to a string of overcrowded bars and cafes.

The state is even planning an experimental social centre next year, following belatedly in the tracks of the church.

"It was only a couple of years ago you risked trouble by kissing your friend here, but now it's out. Things are getting better," a man commented in one of three "gay" bars on the central Schoenhauser Allee Avenue.

His views are shared by Christian Pütz, who founded the first church homosexual self-help group in Leipzig four years ago. "I think we've reached a turning point. The state seems to have recognised problems and is making an effort. But we've a long way to go," he remarked at a recent group discussion.

Why this sudden change of heart by the Communist state?

One church official said he felt the authorities had seen their folly in ignoring key issues such as pollution or sexual minorities for nar-

row ideological reasons. Dogmatists had insisted such problems could exist only in Western societies.

The result was that many young people, Christian and non-Christian, had turned to the church as the only legal platform of open discussion. Homosexuality had been legalised in 1968 but prejudice clearly still abounded.

The first signs of discontent came in January 1982, when more than 200 men and women vented their feelings at the first-ever church seminar on homosexuality in East Berlin.

This prompted formation of the Leipzig group, which then spawned circles in 15 other cities. For the first time "gays" organised openly rather than in bars or private flats.

The state monitored them. Fears were deepened by early links with church-based "peace groups," but the more radical anti-establishment elements left

many for West Berlin.

"Our aim is concrete improvements in attitudes to homosexuals. No more, no less," an activist explained.

The self-help groups, which usually have about 50 members, cannot exercise direct influence like Western pressure groups, but hold informal meetings aimed simply at beating isolation.

Activities range from teatime chats to lectures.

Among the aims is school education on homosexuality, homosexual marriages and, symbolically, the right denied so far to lay wreaths, specifically to the homosexuals who died in Nazi camps. An increase in meeting places could also reduce the use of public lavatories for anonymous sexual rendezvous.

The official press no longer treats the problem as though it were history.

"Some factory managers still hesitate to give the same chances of training or promotion to hom-

osexuals despite qualifications." Sociologist Siegfried Schnabl lamented in East Germany's biggest-selling women's magazine, *Fuer Dich*.

Ironically, while state attitudes relax, homosexuals sense the stirring of opposition within the church that has encouraged them for the last four years.

Historian Karlheinz Blaschke sparked a fierce debate last year, describing widespread homosexuality as a social sickness.

"Liberalism led to the emancipation of many social groups: religious minorities... women, negroes, slaves, Jews. Now... it seems to have reached, or is approaching, pervers, terrorists and sexual criminals," he wrote in a church weekly.

"A process that started in a positive way is tipping over into the negative... we have to ask ourselves whether the homosexuals come before or after this turning point."

The influential Bishop of Berlin-Brandenburg, Gottfried Forck, denounced the article. But some "gays" fear sections of the clergy would willingly leave gay groups out in the cold.

Another threat, closing from over the border wall in West Berlin, is the disease AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome). Homosexuals from West Berlin often visit here. But so far no cases of the disease have been reported here.

"There's nothing we can do, I suppose you just get more wary about someone coming from over there," one man commented.

Was life better for homosexuals in West Berlin?

"Of course, they've got more meeting places and they can read all the books and magazines they want. But that's not the main problem. It's just the anti-homosexuality in everyday life and that takes the same form on both sides."

Libya drives hard towards equality for women

By Kate Dourian

Reuter

TRIPOLI — Colonel Muammar Qadhafi's revolutionary Libya is still very much a man's world, despite his avowed aim of equality for the sexes.

Qadhafi has been in power since 1969 yet today there are no women holding positions of authority in the North African nation of 3.6 million.

However, he made a pointed gesture when the foreign press descended on Tripoli this month to cover a confrontation with the United States over support for Palestinian rebels — he singled out several women reporters for preferential treatment.

"I would like to see a world in which men and women are equal,"

he told the women, according to an exclusive interview and later a rare meeting with his media-shy family.

Nevertheless, the 43-year-old military strongman has not had things all his own way espousing equality in a largely tribal and traditionally patriarchal society.

He resisted pressure two years ago to close a women's academy providing military training. But he was voted down when he tried to make military training compulsory for all women.

At the academy, on a beachfront in Tripoli, some 700 women undergo four years of military training. Most of the women, aged between 17 and 22, describe themselves as volunteers.

"Defence of the nation is the responsibility of every male and female citizen," proclaims a slo-

gan painted on one wall of the academy.

"Women must be strong, educated, armed and equal to men," runs another slogan daubed in the bastion of feminism.

Salma Abdullah, a 22-year-old first Lieutenant, proudly watches some of her comrades demonstrating their skill — for the benefit of Western TV crews — handling Soviet-made rifles and anti-aircraft guns and declares:

"If we feel danger threatening us, we will not wait to be asked and without orders will form suicide squads."

Qadhafi earlier this month threatened to send suicide squads to the United States after President Reagan warned of a possible military strike against Libya.

Reagan accused Libya of harbouring the Abu Nidal guerrilla

group, which he blamed for attacks at airports in Rome and Vienna last month, and ordered economic sanctions on Libya.

Not all the women at the academy are like Salma. For others, military training is merely a way of release from the confines of home and family.

Since Qadhafi's revolution toppled the monarchy and retained Islam as the state religion, more women wear the traditional Muslim veil to cover their heads.

Even at the military academy, some of the women wear scarves under their campaign hats.

Fathia, a mother of three, is one who does not wear a veil. "It's only a sign of modesty, nothing more," she insists.

A staunch believer in Qadhafi's revolution, she adds: "I would willingly take off all my clothes and

run naked into battle in defence of my country."

The women's liberation movement began in Libya long before Qadhafi emerged. Even before he was born, independent-minded Khadija El Jahmy was campaigning for the rights of women.

Now 65, she recalls that as a 13-year-old she wrote to Italian fascist leader Benito Mussolini asking him to remove his occupying troops from Libya. The letter was intercepted and her father promptly arrested.

Khadija, former teacher, journalist, newscaster and publisher, says: "I wanted to do something... women were illiterate. I saw women had to be educated in order to be free."

Encouraged by her father, she and a few volunteers set out to educate female friends and nei-

ghbours. Education at that time was limited to five years at elementary school.

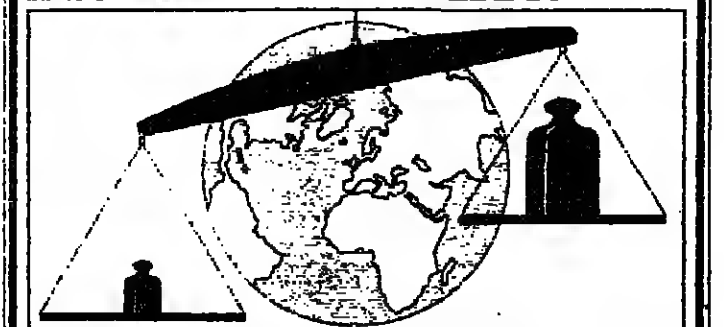
Today, Libyan universities are open to men and women. Girls are expected to receive an education until marriageable age, legally set at 18.

Khadija completed her education in Cairo after the Second World War and returned to Libya to run a radio programme, which she used it as an avenue to educate women.

In 1969 — the year Qadhafi came to power — she overcame opposition from the information ministry to publish the first women's magazine in Libya.

Yet she never aspired to play a role in politics. "I knew only about the home, woman, child and society. That was my politics," she told Reuters.

HOW LITTLE LEAGUE IS DOING



The countries in the first column are selected from 29 listed by the World Bank as U.N./Bank members with populations of under a million. The table compares them, by size of per capita GNP, with their closest neighbor in the major league. One thing is immediately clear — big doesn't necessarily mean better.

Country	GNP (\$)	Equivalent	GNP (\$)
1 Qatar	21,210	U.A.E. [pop. 1m.]	22,870
2 Brunei	21,140	U.A.E. [1m.]	22,870
3 Luxembourg	14,650	U.S.A. [234m.]	14,110
4 Bahrain	10,510	France [54m.]	10,500
5 Iceland	10,260	Japan [120m.]	10,120
13 Fiji	1,710	Syria [10m.]	1,760
14 Antigua/Barbuda	1,710	Jordan [3m.]	1,840
23 Grenada	840	Thailand [50m.]	820
27 Sao Tome/Principe	310	Ghana [12m.]	310
28 Gambia	280	India [734m.]	260
29 Guinea-Bissau	190	Burma [35m.]	180

October 1985 Source: World Bank © CompuServe Inc. Frankfurt, Germany

A disenchanted McEnroe to take 60-day 'sabbatical'

NEW YORK (Agencies) — John McEnroe, dissatisfied with his recent play, has decided to take a break from competitive tennis to work on his game and improve his physical condition, the Men's International Professional Tennis Council said Tuesday.

McEnroe could not be reached for comment but his father, John McEnroe, confirmed that his son would be taking some time off to practice and work on his stamina. The pro council announcement said McEnroe, 26, would be absent from the men's Grand Prix tour for "at least 60 days" during which he would miss at least four tournaments, in Philadelphia, Milan, Brussels, and Chicago.

However, McEnroe will fulfill contractual commitments to play in several exhibitions in January and February, the announcement said.

It added that McEnroe intends to return to the Grand Prix circuit at the end of his sabbatical, but a precise date had not been set.

McEnroe's father said he did not know where his son would spend the time or exactly what he

would be doing. "I don't even think John knows," he told Reuters in a brief telephone interview. A four-time U.S. Open champion and three-time winner at Wimbledon, McEnroe failed to capture a Grand Slam title in 1985 and slipped from no. 1 to no. 2 in the world on the Hewlett-Packard-ATP computer rankings. He was upset by Slobodan Zivonjovich of Yugoslavia in the Australian Open in December and was ousted in the first round of the Masters last week by fellow American Brad Gilbert.

"I'm not moving as well as I normally do, I'm not serving as well, I'm not hitting the ball as solid, I'm making too many mistakes, and my concentration isn't what it used to be to do well in a tournament like this," McEnroe

said after last week's loss to Gilbert.

"I don't know exactly what I might do," he told reporters at the Masters. "Physically, I'm not feeling too good. I'm not moving too well. I've had some problems that have been affecting me a little."

McEnroe won eight tournaments in 1985, ending the year with a 71-9 match record, counting the Masters, the season-ending event. With his bonus money, McEnroe earned more than \$1 million last year.

After the French Open last year, where he lost to eventual winner Mats Wilander of Sweden in the semifinals, McEnroe appeared with actress Tatum O'Neal at a champions dinner given by the International Tennis Federation. There, he publicly thanked the actress for being at his side.

He repeatedly has mentioned the tranquility O'Neal has brought into his life. That tranquility, however, was not translated into success on the tennis court.

She stayed home during Wimbledon, where McEnroe has had a running feud with the London daily Tabloid newspaper

S.Korea draws comfort from history

By Lee Su-Wan
Reuters

SEOUL — Argentina and Bulgaria may reckon they can look forward to two gift points when they meet South Korea in the World Cup in Mexico this June... but Italy are unlikely to dismiss their Group A rivals lightly.

Italy will travel to Mexico as World Cup holders and among the favourites to win the 1986 competition, just as they were when they arrived in England in 1966.

But the much-vaunted Italian side of 20 years ago returned home in disgrace after being knocked-out in the first phase after losing 1-0 to North Korea in a game which is forever etched on the memory.

The South Koreans may prove every bit as dangerous as their neighbours although it is 32 years since they last qualified for the World Cup finals when they were crushed 9-0 by Hungary and 7-0 by Turkey in Switzerland.

Having come through a tough qualifying section against Japan, Indonesia and Malaysia, South Korean manager Kim Jung-Nam

was making no idle predictions when he said: "I hardly expect such things will happen this year. My team is the best South Korea has produced in four decades."

But Kim was realistic enough to concede: "Italy, Bulgaria and Argentina are superior to us in every respect... but they will find it extremely difficult to brush us aside."

A former international defender, Kim took over the national team in March 1985 immediately after South Korea had been beaten 1-0 by Malaysia in an Asian Zone qualifying game. He had an immediate impact and led the team to five successive wins against Malaysia (2-0), Indonesia (2-0 and 4-1) and Japan (2-1 and 1-0).

South Korea also showed up well in a tournament in Mexico last month where they lost 2-1 to the hosts and 1-0 to Hungary but beat Algeria 2-0.

"That tournament gave the players the confidence that they can compete with any team in the world," said Kim. "But we were physically inferior and must improve our tackling and set-pieces."

Kim will take his team to Europe in mid-February for a one-month training stint and the squad will leave for Mexico about four weeks before the World Cup begins in order to acclimatise.

The South Korean squad is a mixture of seasoned professionals, including veteran captain Park Chang-Son, 32, and a number of promising youngsters.

The best known player internationally is 33-year-old winger Cha Bum-Kun who plays for West German club Bayer Leverkusen.

Cha, who has been based in West Germany since 1978, will form a twin spearhead with Choi Soon-Ho, a fast and free-scoring forward.

Another man to watch is Huh Jung-Moo, who had a spell with Dutch club PSV Eindhoven and is generally regarded as the best midfielder in South Korea.

Kim Jong-Boo, 21, and Yoo Byung-Ok, 22, are promising newcomers who helped South Korea gain fourth place in the 1983 World Youth Cup in Mexico and their talents could blossom when they return to Central America this summer.

While South Korea are still developing as a soccer nation, they could, like North Korea before them, spring at least one major surprise.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Youth Minister tours Ismailia

CAIRO (Petra) — Minister of Youth Hisham Al Sharari, currently on a visit to Egypt, paid a visit Wednesday to the sport clubs and the Suez Canal Authority in the Egyptian city of Ismailia. Mr. Sharari was accompanied during the visit by the Ismailia governor and the president of the Suez Canal Authority, who briefed him on projects for developing and expanding the canal as well as the projects recently completed. The minister is here to attend the Jordanian-Egyptian brotherly sport week and also to hold talks aimed at promoting cooperation between the two countries in sport and youth fields.

Qatar sports team to visit Yarmouk

IRBID (Petra) — A sports team from Qatar University is due here on Friday on a visit to Yarmouk University at the invitation of its president, Dr. Adnan Badran. The team will play a number of soccer, basketball, and table tennis matches with teams from Yarmouk University and the University of Jordan. Its members will also be taken on tours of military positions and tourist areas in Ajloun, Himmeh and Jerash.

Garrison, Jordan upset in Kansas

WICHITA, Kansas (R) — Top seeds Zina Garrison and Kathy Jordan went crashing from the \$75,000 Kansas Women's Tennis Tournament in first round matches Tuesday. Garrison, ranked eighth in the world, was toppled by fellow American Vicki Nelson-Dunbar 6-3, 6-2 in just 77 minutes. And an old friend, Kathy Jordan, slipped up 2-6, 6-1, 6-2 against former doubles partner Ann Smith in another all-American clash. Betsy Nagelsen, seeded fifth made it safely through to the second round at the expense of Joanne Russell 6-2, 4-6, 6-1.

2,670 sign up for L.A. marathon

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A total of \$325,000 in cash and prizes will be offered for competitors in the first City of Los Angeles Marathon, it was announced Tuesday. The marathon on March 9 also will be the first to offer equal prizes to both male and female contenders, according to Rod Dixon, vice president of the marathon. First-prize winners each will receive cash and prizes worth \$41,000, added Dixon, winner of the 1983 New York Marathon. "We had 178 entries today," Dixon said Tuesday following the news conference.

Eddie Bird emerges from shadow of brother Larry

By Joyce A. Venezia
Associated Press Writer

FRENCH LICK, Indiana — In typical Larry Bird fashion, the hall was rushed into one corner, flung almost without a glance across court to a waiting teammate and deposited into the basket.

The crowd roared. An exuberant fan yelled out, "Way to go, Larry." The player grimaced.

He is Eddie Bird, the 19-year-old brother of the Boston Celtics' superstar. Eddie looks like Larry. At a lanky 198.1 cm, he's 19.3 cm shorter than his brother, but he has the familiar curly blond hair and country-boy face. He carries the ball like Larry. Even his high school coach, Gary Holland, sometimes slips and calls him Larry.

"I'm not Larry," says Eddie, the leading scorer on the Springs Valley High School team at 22 points a game. "I just try to go out there and be myself."

Eddie is used to living in Larry's shadow and the inevitable comparisons. But there's no resentment.

"I go to see him in Boston at least once a year," he says of Larry, two-time Most Valuable Player in the National Basketball Association.

Eddie also listens to Larry's

advice, particularly now, when he is considering his choice of a college.

The youngest Bird, a senior at Springs Valley, says he hopes to visit Boston College, where he could be close to Larry, or he might remain close to home at some college such as the University of Evansville.

Eddie's teammates respect his desire to be treated as just another member of the team. But coach Holland doesn't hedge the issue of talent. "We have some really good players, but Eddie's the star, no doubt."

If anything hurts Eddie's game, his teammates say, it's living in Larry's shadow.

Eddie just shrugs it off, saying, "It's just a bigger challenge to me."

Holland, who also coached Larry, agrees with his players' praise of Eddie.

"This boy's a good shooter. He's got all the tools to be a great shooter," Holland says. "He's a good rebounder without being able to jump. He's a good passer and, like Larry, he wants his teammates to be noticed too."

The major difference Holland sees between the big Bird and the little Bird is the mental approach to the game.

"Larry concentrated a little more than Eddie does," he says. "A lot of things didn't bother Larry that bother Eddie. But a lot of that is because Eddie finds it hard to be Larry's brother."

U.S. prepares for 'Super Sunday'

By Jack Cavanagh
Reuters

NEW YORK — The Chicago Bears and the New England Patriots, two teams with similar styles but vastly different personalities, clash for the first time in the United States' most celebrated sporting event on Sunday — the Super Bowl.

About 75,000 fans will pack the New Orleans superdome to watch Super Bowl XX (kick off 2215 GMT), the game that decides the 1985-86 American football champions.

In addition, 115 million Americans — almost half the U.S. population — are expected to watch the game on television, many of them at house parties, along with many millions worldwide.

On "Super Sunday," as it has come to be called, the nation virtually shuts down during the three hours the game is nationally televised. Traffic decreases significantly and the crime rate plunges.

For New Orleans, as has been the case for other cities where the game has been played, the Super Bowl will be a financial bonanza, pumping millions of dollars into the local economy. As at the Kentucky Derby and some other

major sports events, prices at most hotels have doubled for the weekend.

The game offers one of the most intriguing clashes in the history of the championship, pitting the awesome Bears and their 17-1 record against the Patriots, who have won 14 and lost five.

The Bears are favorites to win, largely because of their supremacy in the National Conference of the National Football League (NFL), which included decisive shutouts in their two playoff games.

The Patriots, the American Conference Champions, are regarded as the regular season's Cinderella team. They recovered from a poor start to win 12 of their last 14 games and had to win three playoff games on the road to qualify for the Super Bowl.

Both teams will reap rich financial rewards from their first appearance in the Super Bowl, especially the winners, who will greatly enhance their value in offering themselves to companies for commercial endorsements.

In addition, win or lose, the players' pickings will be substantial, with members of the winning team each receiving \$36,000 and the losers \$18,000.

There are stark contrasts between the two teams. One is from America's heartland and the other from the northeast, near Boston.

Both head coaches are former star players, but the similarities stop there. Mike Ditka, coach of the Bears, is an intense, fiercely competitive man with a volcanic temperament, renowned for post-game tantrums after a particularly bad defeat.

His counterpart, Raymond Berry, is a mild-mannered, laconic coach who, in his first year at the helm, turned a team of perennial losers and malcontents into a winner.

The Bears are a team with a mixture of established stars and some startling extroverts. Their offensive team features Walter Payton, who holds the NFL career record for running yardage, and quarterback Jim McMahon, a non-conformist who sports a "punk" haircut and usually wears

wrap around sunglasses.

McMahon not only feuded with his volatile coach during the season, but also took on the NFL Commissioner Pete Rozelle by wearing a headband sporting a commercial name.

After receiving a \$5,000 fine, McMahon drew a lot of laughs, even from Rozelle, the following week when he wore a headband emblazoned with the commissioner's name.

The Bears — many of whom made a rock music video entitled "The Super Bowl Shuffle" — are anchored in defence by arguably the game's most colourful player, 141 kilogramme William Perry, who is known as "The Refrigerator" because of his bulk.

The Patriots, by contrast, have no "name" players and their defence, though solid, is not regarded in the class of "The Monsters of the Midway," as the Bears have been known for years.

But New England have proved themselves opportunists, capitalising on a remarkable 16 turnovers in three playoff games.

In an era when the forward pass is used far more than the run, the Patriots, like the Bears, are a team whose offence is based on a sound running game, with Craig James leading an array of four outstanding, if little known, runners.

The quarterback, Tony Eason, in his third season in the league, throws with great accuracy. His low-key, laid-back approach sharply contrasts with the flashy, outspoken McMahon.

Many feel that the key to the game will be the ability of the Patriots' outstanding offensive line, led by veteran John Hannah, to open holes in the intimidating Bear defensive line for James and company and to protect Eason.

The match has been sold out for weeks, even with tickets priced at \$75 each — 10 times that on the black market.

To televise Super Bowl I between the Green Bay Packers and the Kansas City Chiefs, National Broadcasting Company (NBC) and Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) each paid the NFL one million dollars.

Rene Metge captures Paris-Dakar rally title

PARIS (R) — French driver Rene Metge, driving a Porsche, won the gruelling Paris-Dakar Motor Rally Wednesday for the third time, according to official results.

Cyril Neveu of France won the motor-cycle category on a Honda. Only about 100 of the 487 competitors who set off from Versailles on Jan. 1 completed the 12,700 km course through seven countries.

The annual race from France to Senegal was marred by tragedy last week when its organiser, Thierry Sabine, was killed along with three people when their helicopter crashed in a sandstorm in Mali.

French External Relations Minister Roland Dumas said later the future of the rally would have to be considered.

Salonen overtakes Toivonen at Monte Carlo

MONTE CARLO (R) — Peugeot driver Timo Salonen snatched the Monte Carlo Rally lead early Wednesday after fellow-Finn Ari Toivonen lost time changing tyres on his Lancia during a tough mountain time trial.

Salonen, who trailed Toivonen by 25 seconds after the 22nd time trial this morning, stole into the lead when his compatriot lost 28 seconds switching tyres to cope with the difficult terrain over the 37-km 23rd time trial.

Salonen led by 22 seconds at the end of the trial — the first time Peugeot had led the week-long, 4,000-km event.

Third-placed Italian Massimo Biasion also decided to change the tyres of his Lancia and lost 38 seconds.

ENGLISH NANNY SEKS JOB

English nanny, 10 years experience, mostly with newborns, seeks full-time work.
References available
Telephone 821612

FOR RENT Deluxe Furnished House

Three bedrooms, sitting room, dining room, veranda, fully-equipped kitchen, garden with garage, central heating and telephone.
Location: Jabal An nan - 8th Circle, near Leswey Centre
Call: 812417 - 812418 between 8 a.m.-1 p.m. and 815201 Mr. Mansour Thursday all day.

THE Daily Crossword by Peter Swift

ACROSS	1 Inside information	5 "In Paris"	10 Malicious	15 Fry in fat	16 Tre	17 Urban valley	18 France	20 Curtailed drastically	21 Piled up	22 Sounds of hesitation	24 Johnny	25 "Irish Rose"	26 Resolve	33 "To be happy"	34 Turner or Carroll	35 Fellow	36 Motorists' hesitations	40 Vex	41 Contends	42 Mournful song	43 Colonists	45 Bored in a way	46 Be indebted to	47 Bar order	48 Milder	53 More obnoxious	58 Algerian port	59 Say to swim	61 Blue or green color	62 Gently	63 Prolonged	64 Impressed	64 Quercus plants	65 Ebb and reap	66 Rubber stamp adjuncts	67 Deeply regret	68 Explosions	69 Limb joint	70 Vagabond	71 Dine's solo	71 Aid a felon	72 Urban transport	73 Ambush	74 Buffalo BFF's state	75 — out (barely made)	77 Bright colors	80 Secondhand
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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS	1 Inside information	5 "In Paris"	10 Malicious	15 Fry in fat	16 Tre	17 Urban valley	18 France	20 Curtailed drastically	21 Piled up	22 Sounds of hesitation	24 Johnny	25 "Irish Rose"	26 Resolve	33 "To be happy"	34 Turner or Carroll	35 Fellow	36 Motorists' hesitations	40 Vex	41 Contends	42 Mournful song	43 Colonists	45 Bored in a way	46 Be indebted to	47 Bar order	48 Milder	53 More obnoxious	58 Algerian port	59 Say to swim	61 Blue or green color	62 Gently	63 Prolonged	64 Impressed	64 Quercus plants	65 Ebb and reap	66 Rubber stamp adjuncts	67 Deeply regret	68 Explosions	69 Limb joint	70 Vagabond	71 Dine's solo	71 Aid a felon	72 Urban transport	73 Ambush	74 Buffalo BFF's state	75 — out (barely made)	77 Bright colors	80 Secondhand
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EMBASSY OF INDIA - AMMAN REPUBLIC DAY

The flag hoisting ceremony on the 37th Republic Day of India will take place at 10 a.m. at the Chancery premises, 1st Circle, Jabal Amman. All Indians in Jordan are cordially invited to attend.

INVITATION FOR BIDS

1. The Government of Jordan has received a loan from the World Bank in various currencies towards the cost of First Urban Development Project (UDP1) and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payment under the contract for the project being administered by the Urban Development Department of Amman Municipality (UDD).

2. The UDD now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply of the equipment for the Vocational Training Centre for men at Uweismeh.

3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the bidding documents at the office of:

Urban Development Department
Amman - Jordan
P.O. Box 927198
Telex No. 22249 UDD JO
Tel. No. 635281 - 636111.

4. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased on 21/1/1988 by any interested eligible bidder on the submission of a written application to the above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of JD 25.

5. All bids must be accompanied by a security, and must be delivered to the above office on or before 12.00 noon on 25/2/1988.

ARABIC FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES

The Language Centre at the University of Jordan announces that courses in Modern Standard Arabic for speakers of other languages will commence on the first of February, and will last for 16 weeks. Two programmes will be offered:

1. The intensive programme in which classes meet in the morning for 20 hours per week, Saturday-Wednesday. The fee for these courses is JD 140 per term.
2. The regular programme in which classes meet 6 hours per week (5:30-7:10 Saturday, Monday, and Wednesday). The fee for these courses is JD 50 per term.

Those interested please call at the Language Centre for registration between 25-29 January.



MOVIES

Cinema
CONCORD
Tel: 677420
GOTCHA!
(Colour)

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema
RAINBOW
Tel: 625155
COMMANDO
(Colour)

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema
A-HUSSEIN
Tel: 622112
MAD MAX
(Colour)

Performances: 12:00, 3:00, 5:30, 8:30

Cinema
Philadelphia
Tel: 634144 - 634149
**CLOSED AND
SHORTLY WILL BE
REOPENED**

Cinema
RAGHADAN
Tel: 622198
HEROS OATH
(Indian)

Performances: 12:00, 3:00, 5:30, 8:30

Cinema
OPERA
Abdallah Al-Husseini
Tel: 675573
**SAVE WHAT CAN BE
SAVED**
(Arabic)

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One sterling	1.4065/75	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.4055/60	Canadian dollars
	2.4615/25	West German marks
	2.7727/37	Dutch guilders
	2.0980/90	Swiss francs
	20.28/33	Belgian francs
	7.5500/50	French francs
	1676/1677	Italian lire
	202.25/35	Japanese yen
	7.6515/65	Swedish crowns
	7.5415/65	Norwegian crowns
	9.0450/50	Danish crowns
Gold price of gold	351.50/352.50	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices closed higher with the weakness of sterling prompting gains in major exporting companies and higher oil prices helping buying sentiment. Operators of the three-tiered rise in U.K. base rates. At 1530 GMT the FTSE 100 index was 11.8 up at 1394.

FTSE 100 closed 206 higher at 757 and Beecham rose 13p to 343. Oils saw B.P. 10p higher at 563 while Shell added 4p to 665.

Government bonds showed gains of around 3/16 point. Banks were mixed, insurance firms while golds eased. North Americans were mixed.

Glaxo, 50p to 1610, Lucas rose 13p to 486, and GKN added 7p to 285.

BT R added 2p higher at 363 but moved to 373 in after hours following news it agreed to sell its wholly owned subsidiary Corhill Insurance to Allianz group for £305 million. Group Lotus returned from suspension on Wednesday on news General Motors agreed to acquire a 58 per cent stake in the company, which ended 5p higher at 129. Anglia Television closed 4p up at 180 after year results.

In mixed banks, Midland gained 8p to 442, after news it is to create an Irish banking group.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, JAN. 23, 1986

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Consider what you can do to enlarge the scope of your personal happiness at home. It is a fine time to consider making private arrangements to gain the intimate longings that are yours.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Study your dwelling and know what you need the most to make it more charming and functional, and plan to get it soon.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Study reports and statements that are important regarding your business or personal activities.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Study your income from any work you are doing and assume more interest. Show that you approve of fellow workers.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Plan your romantic outlets more wisely and get better results. Get busy with some talent you possess.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Have social discussions with family and maintain greater harmony at home. Show that you are truly devoted to your family.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) An information-gathering trip with a good friend can be helpful to you both today. Read or study so that you can gain personal aims.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) An expert you consult could laugh at the way you are handling affairs but will give you excellent advice.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Study into new opportunities all around you and get into the best outlets you can. Take a little trip to gain the information you need.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Have that private talk with one in business so that you can have a fine plan under which to operate.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) If your associate and you need further data, ask a good friend and get it. Get down to facts and figures.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Even if you don't realize it, a bigwig is studying the way you perform your duties and will later assist you.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You have fine ideas how to make your life more ideal so put them in operation today. Rest up tonight and be happy.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will be desirous of understanding practical matters in business. This is a deep thinker here and will not brook much interference in private life, not even from parents. Give a good religious training early.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, JAN. 24, 1986

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The daytime is very good for preparing outlets which can be constructive for you during the coming weekend and this can start with some very satisfactory activity tonight.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) A good day to invite friends in and tonight you can garner the data you need. Adding new activities soon will help you to express fine talents you seldom use.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Handling correspondence thoughtfully and wisely can bring you the results to make your life more successful in the future.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Study your practical aims well first, and then contact those who are experts in business who can be of assistance to you.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Do whatever will improve your health. Have the right conditions about you and you will feel happier.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Think over your secret ambitions and make plans to gain them, and tonight you can take the initial steps.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Plan which friends you want to be with over the weekend, and then contact them and make appointments. Be with selected ones.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Finish outside career work and then impress bigwigs favorably with your abilities. Get about town and have a good time.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Find a novel way of developing and becoming more prosperous and put it to work quickly. Plan a little trip.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Get rid of whatever is deterring your progress today and get into more lucrative outlets.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Don't be irked because your partners may act emotionally, and then you can come to a better accord with them.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Get the week's work completed with flourish and feel satisfied and happy, thereby.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Conversing with associates can bring fine understanding among you, so don't be reticent. Plan the amusements that you enjoy.

China announces biggest trade deficit in history

PEKING (R) — China reported the biggest trade deficit in its history Wednesday but failed to announce new measures to restrict soaring imports.

Mr. Huang Wenjun, spokesman of the ministry of foreign economic relations, told a news conference the deficit rose last year to \$7.61 billion from the previous record of \$1.1 billion in 1984.

He said China planned to sell more oil, coal and farm products this year, as well as improving the quality and packaging of its manufactured goods to try to raise export earnings.

But he did not announce any new steps to curb imports, which rose nearly one-third last year over 1984. Exports rose less than six per cent over the same period.

Japan, which sells more to China than any other country, accounted for over half the deficit. Chinese leaders have repeatedly told Japan they will not tolerate a third year of deficit in 1986.

Mr. Huang said China would not take any new steps to cut imports from Japan, apart from continuing tight curbs on Japanese

consumer goods introduced in the middle of last year.

"If a product is made domestically, China will usually not import it," he said.

China would use its foreign exchange to buy technology and equipment to increase its export capacity and for key projects in energy, communications and transport, he said.

A shake-up in Mr. Huang's ministry earlier this month, in which two deputy ministers lost their jobs, was in line with China's efforts to replace older men with younger ones and had nothing to do with the deficit, he said.

One western diplomat told Reuters that China had no alternative but to apply tight restrictions on imports this year.

"Prices of its major exports like oil and coal are falling and textiles face rising protectionism in key markets," he said.

"The blame for its record deficit rests with a nationwide loss of control over trade management last year. China cannot blame its trading partners for it. It cannot retaliate against them for its own faults," he added.

Inflation hits 66-year high in beleaguered South Africa

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South African inflation has soared to its highest level for 66 years and economists Tuesday voiced fears about the impact of price rises on the beleaguered economy.

The steep rise in the rate of inflation announced Tuesday to an annualised 18.45 per cent in December from just under 17 per cent in November — took many economists by surprise.

Mr. Rob Lee, chief economist for a South African insurance group, called the rise "pretty disturbing." The December figure was the highest since 1920, when the country was caught in a worldwide inflationary spiral after World War I, he told Reuters.

"It's a bit of a shock," said an economist at a major South African bank who declined to be named. "We didn't expect it to go up this far."

South Africa's economy has hit

serious trouble, due mainly to international pressure after months of violent black protest in its racially-zoned townships.

Lobbies against apartheid race discrimination have pressed multinational companies to pull their money out of the country and foreign firms have cut credit lines amid fears for South Africa's political stability.

This has forced the country's currency, the rand, down from 85 U.S. cents in March 1984 to just over 35 cents last August, pushing up the price of imported goods dramatically.

The authorities imposed a partial freeze on debt capital repayments in September, and the rand has since recovered to above 43 cents. But economists expect inflation to remain high as the foreign debt crisis fails to stop an anticipated domestic upswing.

Bank takes Galadari Brothers to court to recover \$84 million

DUBAI (R) — Union Bank of the Middle East (UBME), biggest creditor of the Dubai trading house A.R.E. Galadari Brothers, has taken the group to court for recovery of loans totalling 310 million dirhams (\$84.5 million), banking sources said Tuesday.

Hearing of the case against Galadari Brothers, which owed 19 banks a total 900 million dirhams (\$245 million) when its Dubai bank subsidiary was taken over by UBME last year, has been set for Jan. 26.

Banking sources said the move by government-controlled UBME, which has already acquired shares and property from the group's owners, may trigger similar action from a syndicate of eight banks led by Citibank, owed \$68 million.

Settlement of about 100 million dirhams (\$27.2 million) has been reached so far with four banks.

Three of them, Standard Chartered, Toronto Dominion and Amsterdam-Rotterdam Bank, accepted 38 to 40 per cent of their dues in settlement.

The fourth, National Bank of Abu Dhabi, agreed after prolonged court action to a four-year quarterly repayment schedule with interest waived on a loan of 12.5 million dirhams (\$3.4 million).

Banking sources said Galadari Brothers were also negotiating with Bankers Trust and Arab Asian Bank for similar settlements before UBME decided to go to court.

Experts urge building new Arab petrochemical plants

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Arab officials are urging the construction of new petrochemical plants in their countries despite a glut on world markets.

The startup of massive petrochemical installations throughout the Arab World has already sent shudders through industrialised countries, prompting import tariffs.

But experts at a petrochemical conference here this week said there are still several kinds of petrochemicals under-produced by Arab concerns, despite solid demand within their own market.

They advocated integrating Arab oil-based industry across a whole spectrum — from the oil well to plastic bags.

"The intention is to utilise availability of the local market," said Sheikh Abdullah Al Moajil, secretary-general of the Gulf Organisation for Industrial Consulting (GOIC), one of the organisers of the conference.

"That doesn't exclude the possibility of looking at the export market. But young industries cannot compete in the international market until you have a foundation, and we can build that foundation in the local market," he told Reuters.

While such plants would not initially sell much to industrialised countries, by replacing imports from developed countries they could cause new concern in Western firms already being forced to close factories.

Arab officials say they have a right at least to fill Arab demand without worrying about the impact elsewhere.

A new generation of plants could cost several billion dollars, though it would only represent a fraction — 10 to 20 per cent — of existing Arab

capacity.

Conference delegates showed a wide range of "downstream industries" — closer to the consumer — into which the Arabs could expand. Bahraini Industry Minister Yousef Shirawi opened the three-day session on Monday with a call to invest directly in petrochemical plants in the agricultural sector.

Scientists at the conference said it is possible and economically feasible to manufacture protein-rich animal feed from methanol simply by adding yeast or bacteria.

Another organisation group, Arab Industrial Development Organisation (AIDO), described "enormous potential for expansion and the development of the plastics industry."

AIDO said the average West European used about 50 times as much plastic as the average Arab, who is therefore expected to increase his consumption significantly.

"It is clear that an integrated pan-Arab plan must be adopted to organise the production of primary plastics," it added.

Mr. Mustafa Nader of the Damascus-based Arab Federation for Textile Industry declared: "There are ample opportunities for establishing a synthetic fibre industry based on coordination among the Arab countries," polyester fibre is one example.

Others urged investment in industries to make synthetic rubber, detergents and paints.

Delegates said Arab industry should also branch into a new range of basic, upstream pet-

rochemicals, such as chemicals derived from naphtha, a refined oil product.

Most Arab petrochemical industries have been based so far on natural gas like ethane and methane, but some downstream products cannot be made without naphtha-based chemicals.

"We have gone too far in producing just ethylene and methanol," said Mr. Ali Atiga, secretary-general of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries.

"We have to use naphtha. We want to produce other products," Mr. Atiga said, reiterating a call for "a balanced petrochemical industry."

EC tariffs under sharp attack

Meanwhile, the spate of duties imposed by the European Community (EC) on Gulf petrochemicals in recent weeks was described as evidence of a "new hard-line protectionist" approach by a senior Saudi official in Riyadh.

Mr. Ibrahim A. Salamah, vice chairman and managing director of the Saudi Arabian Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC), said in a statement: "These tariffs come as a total surprise to SABIC in that they represent a major shift in EC policies towards imports of Arab-produced petrochemicals."

Between Jan. 6 and 13 the EC Commission reimposed tariffs on linear low-density polyethylene, high-density polyethylene and methanol.

Mr. Salamah said: "It is alarming to note that last year, the EC waited seven months to impose tariffs on these products under the generalised system of preferences, while this year, it took

Commission only five days to impose duties on linear low-density polyethylene followed soon after by the imposition of tariffs on high-density polyethylene and methanol.

"These new developments clearly indicate that the continuous protectionist sentiments and policies of the EC against Saudi Arabia's growing petrochemical industry still prevail, even though the kingdom continues with its liberal free-trade attitude towards EC exports. Some 35 per cent of all chemical imports to Saudi Arabia originate from the EC and most enter duty-free."

Mr. Salamah charged that the new levels set by the EC "are extremely low and do not reflect the volume of production in Saudi Arabia, or a reasonable EC market share."

He said the European Council of the Chemical Manufacturers Federation (CEFIC) had taken a leading role in effectively shaping and influencing protectionist policies, ignoring European consumer interests and the EC's major trading partners in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

Mr. Salamah said GCC-EC negotiations were the best framework to solve their differences, but since negotiations began, the EC Commission had adopted a hard line and shown less flexibility in meeting GCC demands for better market access to the EC.

"It seems that the EC would like to continue having European producers enjoy duty-free access to the GCC market, while denying GCC producers similar access to Europe," he observed.

On Sunday the GCC said that the new tariffs violated the spirit of the Luxembourg agreement between the two groups.

Profits of prominent Saudi bank drop by 80.1 per cent

JEDDAH (R) — Saudi Arabia's National Commercial Bank (NCB) Wednesday reported an 80.1 per cent drop in profits for the Islamic year ended Sept. 14, 1985.

The bank, the largest privately-owned bank in the Middle East, earned 99.6 million riyals (\$27.3 million) in the Islamic year 1405, down from 499.5 million (\$136.8 million) the previous year.

Its balance sheet showed NCB made provisions of 691 million riyals (\$189 million) against possible losses, up from 425 million (\$116 million) in 1404.

Profits of Saudi banks have been hit recently by increases in bad loans resulting from the drop in oil revenues and the resultant downturn in the local economy.

Total income rose to 4.90 billion riyals (\$1.34 billion) from 4.68 billion (\$1.28 billion) but assets of the bank fell to 55.47 billion riyals (\$15.20 billion) from 57.62 billion (\$15.79 billion).

Guarantees, letters of credit and other obligations fell to 29.90 billion riyals (\$8.19 billion) from 33.02 billion (\$9.04 billion), while loans and advances rose to 20.97 billion (\$5.75 billion) from 20.03 billion (\$5.45 billion).

Customer deposits fell to 43.61 billion riyals (\$11.95 billion) from 44.83 billion (\$12.28 billion), the balance sheet showed.

Alusuisse expects shocking losses

ZURICH (R) — Alusuisse, one of the world's leading aluminium producers, replaced its two top executives Tuesday after reporting shocking trading losses for 1985. The company could not pay shareholders a dividend this year. Alusuisse has yet to reveal how much it lost last year. Its crisis was caused primarily by weak world aluminium markets and problems in moving into other business.

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles: one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

KEHRI
EXVIN
TOBUNT
RAZTUQ



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

ANSWER: THE "LOW" ONE

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: WELSH QUAIL YELLOW CAVORT

Answer: What sort of conversation was going on at the library?—A VERY "LOW" ONE

3 Sikh defendants sentenced to death in Gandhi murder trial

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — All three Sikh defendants in the Indira Gandhi murder trial were sentenced to death on Wednesday after hearing that lasted 254 days.

Describing the Oct. 31, 1984, killing as a "rarest of rare" offences, Judge Mahesh Chandra said the three defendants had committed the crime with premeditation and a cold blooded mind. He did not set a date for the execution and defence lawyers said they would appeal to higher courts within a week.

Unprecedented security surrounded the close of the trial which started on May 13, 1985 and was held in a small, makeshift courtroom in Delhi's Tihar jail.

Judge Chandra announced the defendants were guilty at 11.20 a.m. local time and exactly one hour later pronounced the death sentence by hanging, setting off sobbing among relatives in court.

He was listened to in silence by the accused, the late prime minister's bodyguards Satwant Singh and Balbir Singh and civil servant Kehar Singh. They all had pleaded not guilty.

The three Sikhs sat dressed in suits on a rough wooden bench in a bulletproof enclosure and showed no signs of emotion until the judge left the room.

Judge Chandra told the court that the prosecution "established beyond all reasonable doubt" that the Sikhs had conspired to kill Mrs. Gandhi.

"The present case is one of the rarest of the rare," Judge Chandra said. "The extreme penalty of

death sentence is called for and I accordingly sentence Satwant Singh, Kehar Singh and Balbir Singh to death."

The judge did not specify the method of execution, but hanging is the legal form of capital punishment in India.

The second assassin, security guard Beant Singh, was shot dead at the scene by police commandos.

The judge read out the verdict in a low voice in less than five minutes and then asked the three accused Sikhs, standing with expressionless faces, whether they had anything to say.

"I am innocent. That is all I have to say," said Balbir Singh first. The other two repeated his words.

Defence lawyers were not present when the judge pronounced the defendants guilty. He then left the court and returned one hour later to pass the death sentences, by which time defence counsel were in court.

The prosecution said the Sikhs conspired to kill the prime minister in retaliation for the army assault on the Golden Temple in Amritsar in June 1984. Mrs. Gandhi ordered the raid to drive out armed extremists and separatists using the shrine as a sanctuary and command post. About 1,200 people died in the battle.

The prosecution said the Sikhs conspired to kill the prime minister in retaliation for the army assault on the Golden Temple in Amritsar in June 1984. Mrs. Gandhi ordered the raid to drive out armed extremists and separatists using the shrine as a sanctuary and command post. About 1,200 people died in the battle.

Judge Chandra, who delivered his 260-page judgment only one week after Mr. Lekhi concluded the defence arguments, had been expected to consider the sentencing for up to a week.

Reagan optimistic of progress at disarmament conference

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Reagan has forecast an accord this year at the Stockholm conference on European disarmament despite Soviet opposition to proposals on monitoring troop movements in Europe.

A White House statement on Tuesday quoted Mr. Reagan as expressing satisfaction with progress in the last round of the conference "and my belief that an accord with important implications for the overall East-West relationship can be achieved there this year."

Following a meeting with Mr. Reagan, the chief U.S. delegate to the conference, Robert Barry, told reporters it was hoped the substance of an agreement could be in place by July 18, leaving the

final session to working out text language.

The 35-nation Stockholm talks, formally known as the Conference on Security and Confidence Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe, have been under way since January 1984. They are aimed at reducing the risk of surprise attack or accidental war. The new round starts next Tuesday.

At their summit last November Mr. Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev pledged efforts to reach a successful conclusion of the conference.

But Mr. Barry said the question of allowing inspectors to provide information about movements of military forces remained a key area of dispute.

Pyongyang, Moscow satisfied over ties

MOSCOW (R) — North Korean leader Kim Il-Sung and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze expressed satisfaction with bilateral relations when they met in North Korea on Tuesday, the official Soviet news agency TASS said.

In a report from Pyongyang, TASS said their meeting took place in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

Mr. Shevardnadze flew to North Korea from Japan on Sunday, TASS said.

Mr. Kim declared his support for the new Soviet disarmament proposals, announced by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev last Wednesday, suggesting the elimination of nuclear weapons by the end of the century.

TASS said he also gave a "positive" assessment of the Soviet Union's call for a comprehensive approach to security problems in Asia.

Soviet Television showed Mr. Kim and Mr. Shevardnadze seated and flanked by officials.

Both criticised plans by the United States and South Korea for joint military manoeuvres starting on Feb. 10, saying this would further worsen tension in the Korean Peninsula.

On Monday, North Korean Foreign Minister Kim Yong-Nam said at a reception for Mr. Shevardnadze that the peninsula was very tense and warned of the danger of a new war there.

They said Lesotho's political situation and the two men exchanged views which were likely to reduce tension and lead to a "policy of good neighbourliness" between Maseru and Pretoria.

It said the talks took account of Lesotho's economic dependence on South Africa, which totally surrounds the tiny African enclave.

Radio Lesotho, virtually the only source of information about events in Lesotho since the coup, had earlier announced the start of the talks.

Western diplomats in Lesotho's capital of Maseru told Reuters Tuesday's meeting was apparently the second between the two governments.

South African Deputy Foreign Affairs Director Neil Van Heerden flew to Maseru shortly after the military takeover on Monday for similar but unannounced talks, they said.

They said Lesotho's new leaders were apparently anxious to avoid policies of confrontation with Pretoria adopted by the ousted administration.

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Radio Lesotho, virtually the only source of information about events in Lesotho since the coup, had earlier announced the start of the talks.

Western diplomats in Lesotho's capital of Maseru told Reuters Tuesday's meeting was apparently the second between the two governments.

South African Deputy Foreign Affairs Director Neil Van Heerden flew to Maseru shortly after the military takeover on Monday for similar but unannounced talks, they said.

They said Lesotho's new leaders were apparently anxious to avoid policies of confrontation with Pretoria adopted by the ousted administration.

They said Lesotho's political situation and the two men exchanged views which were likely to reduce tension and lead to a "policy of good neighbourliness" between Maseru and Pretoria.

Thousands flee Kampala in fear of guerrillas

KAMPALA (R) — Thousands of people fled the Uganda capital Kampala on Wednesday in panic after hearing reports that guerrillas of the National Resistance Army (NRA) were near the city boundaries, eyewitnesses said.

Shops and offices closed and the eyewitnesses said government troops had mounted heavy guns only about one kilometre from the city centre.

Clashes were reported at Nattete, 10 kilometres away.

Residents said helicopter gunships were strafing the (NRA) guerrillas at Nattete.

Large numbers of government soldiers began pouring into the city from the Nattete area, commandeering cars and forcing civilians to hand over their clothes and other possessions, they said.

Other residents said the troops had been driven back by the NRA, and that they had heard artillery fire close to the city earlier Wednesday morning.

The latest report of panic in Kampala is only one in a series that has gripped the troubled capital in the last few days following clashes in nearby villages. Thousands of people have already fled to churches and mosques for safety.

Kampala residents described the atmosphere as extremely nervous and said there were widespread fears that the NRA was planning a military assault on the capital.

The government and NRA signed a peace agreement in Nairobi on Dec. 17, but it has had little effect and each side blames the

other for breaking the accord.

Head of state General Tito Okello has accused the NRA of attacking government troops in violation of the peace pact, while the guerrillas said on Sunday they had driven government soldiers out of five areas close to Kampala because the troops were continuing to kill and harass civilians.

Despite the peace accord, the NRA has indicated its guerrillas would mount a military assault on Kampala if the government did not bring its undisciplined troops under control.

The NRA controls southwest Uganda where its militants have a reputation for discipline.

The rebels have refused to take up seven seats on the ruling military council, which they accepted under the peace agreement.

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Death toll goes up in S. African clash

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The death toll in a South African township clash in which two white policemen died rose to six on Wednesday as police reported they had found the bodies of two more black men.

Police said Tuesday two white officers from their force were stabbed to death after trying to break up a 500-strong black crowd holding an "illegal" meeting at Westonaria, west of Johannesburg.

Two black men were found dead near the policemen's riot vehicle Tuesday night, and another two bodies were found nearby on Wednesday. Police arrested 52 black men, 31 of whom were taken to hospital with gunshot wounds.

Reinforcements rushed to the area Tuesday night came under fire from people in the crowd armed with pistols and shotguns taken from the dead policeman, a police spokesman said.

Residents said Westonaria's Bekkersdal township, near the scene of the clash, was tense on Wednesday, with a heavy police presence and many people staying

home from work.

Police said Tuesday they were searching the area for their attackers, after the crowd fled to Bekkersdal from the nearby field where they had been meeting.

The incident was the worst involving white police casualties in nearly two years of black protest violence.

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London kidnap suspect held without bail in New York

NEW YORK (R) — A suspect in the London kidnapping of the brother of one of the world's richest men, was ordered held without bail on Tuesday on kidnapping charges.

Mustafa Zein, 43, a Lebanese national and an antique dealer in Manhattan, was arrested on Saturday by FBI agents acting on behalf of Scotland Yard.

He is accused of arranging on behalf of the kidnappers for a \$3 million ransom to be paid for the release of Mohammed Sadiq Al Tajir, the brother of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) ambassador to London who is reportedly worth \$3 billion.

Sadiq, 44, was kidnapped on Jan. 6 and held for 11 days in a London house. British police said he was chained to a bed for 11 days and had been drugged and forced to wear a mask.

After the ransom was delivered, Sadiq's captors vanished and he

staggered onto the street, dragging the bedframe to which he was still chained.

Mr. Zein, who lives in a luxurious Manhattan apartment, was initially identified as "Mr. X" by Scotland Yard.

Police tapped the ambassador's phone and the court heard on Tuesday that Mr. Zein telephoned the ambassador from New York on Jan. 7 and said he represented the kidnappers.

The police affidavit said that on Jan. 8 and Jan. 9, Mr. Zein and the ambassador had conversations about the ransom, which was reduced from \$71 million to \$3 million.

The ambassador transferred the money on Jan. 16 to an account Mr. Zein held in a Beirut bank, the affidavit said.

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